



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

SECOND SESSION - FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 27TH JUNE, 2019

SESSION – 2019/2020



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: I

NUMBER: 10

First Meeting of the Second Session of the Fifth Parliament
of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Thursday, 27th June, 2019.

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PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

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BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE FOURTH REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON
APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT
THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Thursday, 27th June, 2019.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 11:00 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

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

The House was called to Order

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY, 20TH JUNE, 2019.

HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH [*Leader of the Opposition*]: Mr Speaker, with your permission before we commence Proceedings for this morning, I have a brief statement to make and some issues to raise. With your permission Mr Speaker, firstly, it has to do with the Order Paper in front of us this morning. Mr Speaker, I presume you have a copy of it. Do you Mr Speaker? The day is Thursday 27th June, 2019.

THE SPEAKER: I do.

HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH: You do. Mr Speaker, firstly, I want to confirm what we said last Thursday and I want to reiterate today and it was also mentioned by Honourable Hassan Sesay our Whip, that the list of Committee Members that was read in this House have not gone through the correct procedures for it to be in existence and our position remains the same. Looking at the Order Paper, there is an item No.3 which reads: "**Laying of Papers**" and I see the name Honourable Abdul Titus Kamara, Deputy Chairman, Public Accounts Committee. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have said in the past and I repeat again today that we have been cooperating and we will continue to cooperate with Government to do what is right but whatever goes against our laws or rules we will neither support nor condone because we will not in any way be helping the Government.

Mr Speaker, unfortunately I was out of the jurisdiction but when the information was brought to my notice I had cause to call you and we agreed on the phone that there should be no further discussions until I return over the weekend so that we would meet on Monday at 2:00 p.m. To our agreement, I was here at 2:00 p.m. I met the Leader of Government Business; he was on his way out to a meeting somewhere. I asked him, I said we were supposed to have a meeting with the Speaker; it seemed it was not to his knowledge because he was confused. So I said let me go to the Speaker in any case he

would call you. So what I did was to proceed to you Mr Speaker, informed you of what have transpired between myself and the Leader of Government Business but it was past 2:00 p.m. and I told you I am around the building if you need me I am available or if it is not convenient we do it on Tuesday that was the following day. Unfortunately, as I speak Mr Speaker, I have not received any call from you to confirm that the meeting we agreed upon should proceed. So, that in addition also gives me the impression that the list is yet to be confirmed because we are yet to meet and I have consulted my Deputy, the Honourable I.B Kargbo what he said to me and our caucus is very clear that he did not approve the list and that his signature was not appended on the list that was read which is usually the procedure. Since last year was your First Session, I am sure if you go through the list for last year you would see that my signature is also on the list that was read to this House. That is very serious.

Mr Speaker, beyond that also as I said I have discussed with Honourable I.B Kargbo and he said his signature was not appended on the list. I was also informed by the Whip on our side the Honourable Hassan Sesay, that immediately the list was read he approached your good self in your office and raised the issue with you. That is just in further confirmation to our position that we are not going to work with you when things are not following the right path because we cannot support Government by doing the wrong things, we will not. Honourable I.B Kargbo said to me very clearly because I was told that the Committee on Selection was announced on Wednesday and usually the practice is for the Whips after Committees have been allocated to the parties based on Section 93 of the Constitution and S.O 72[1] of our Standing Orders the Whips will retire, prepare the list based on the strength of political parties and then they will consolidate for us to look at and then approve. That could not be done in 24 hours. So, that gives me the privilege to believe in what Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo said to me.

Mr Speaker, there have been other things as well because I am sure you would want history to judge you and remember you positively Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: It goes for all of us.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Yes definitely.

THE SPEAKER: Posterity is meant for everybody in this House.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Accepted Mr Speaker, all of us. Further to that also Mr Speaker, I have just confirmed that the list was not countersigned. There have been also things going on in the House which we should have discussed in camera but unfortunately not. We were informed not only myself, that a Member of Parliament had been informed by your good self that the Israeli Caucus was withdrawn from the list of Committees based on my instructions. That is what the Member said.

THE SPEAKER: Has the Member purportedly quoted me?

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Yes, the Member quoted you. According to him you said to him categorically clear that I was the one who informed and persuaded you to withdraw the list when I have not at any point in time been involved in the naming or listing of Committees.

THE SPEAKER: Did I say categorically if I may borrow that word from you?

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Yes Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Then I have been misquoted.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. This is for the records. Mr Leader of Government Business was also quoted. I have his SMS with me that myself and him had discussed on these Committees and that we had agreed even before I travelled and that I even sent a text message to him the Leader of Government Business. As I said, I have the SMS with me, that is why I would have loved us to meet on Monday. I want to confirm again that for the few What-Sapp messages we once in a while exchange, I have never sent an SMS to the Leader of Government Business, never in my life. We talk on the phone all the time; we do not talk through text messages, never. These are the statements going around and apart from the text messages; we have never discussed the Committees, neither the distribution nor the Membership before I left otherwise, there would have been no reason for me to have

called you or spoken to you on the issue because perceptions in politics are grave and serious. All of us have reputations to maintain and protect. So, if information is filtering and it is not credible it is also good for us to have a platform to correct that because what was said in our meeting yesterday was that the Leader of Government Business would normally say to colleagues on our side **“why are you fighting I have consulted your Leader and we have agreed.”** I have and will never agree on something that I will not inform my Members, I will never *[Applause]*. I said I have integrity to protect, I will never and fortunately, most if not all of those in this Well today know the person that I am *[Applause]*. We have had a trip together and you know we spent over a week together; it was enough for you to have studied my character *[Undertone]*.

Mr Speaker, on that note, based on those positions I have maintained, I want to move again that we reconfirm that the list that was read in this House is still the list that has not been approved by this House because we are not the ones who had placed our Members into these Committees. So, that is my position Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, further to that, with your permission, there are two other issues I want to talk about. Mr Speaker, when I entered the precincts of Parliament this morning I found lot of Police Officers all over the building, all over the building Mr Speaker. Members of Parliament have been clamouring for security. Mr Speaker, may I have some decorum please? I want to wrap up but they are not allowing me to wrap up. When they are ready I will continue. I accept it is security, I am saying what I saw *[Undertone]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I think you should be sympathetic here.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I do not need sympathy or empathy, nothing. I just need what is right.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please give the Leader of the Opposition the chance to complete his statement.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You must understand the stress under which he is acting.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I can always manage my stress. Mr Speaker, Honourable Nyuma knows me very well. I am not stressful Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I am never stressed in my life, I pray five times a day so I have faith. In whatever I do stress is not part of my life.

THE SPEAKER: Well, if you say so.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Yes, it is Mr Speaker. Whenever there is something that bothers me I just bow and pray, I do not allow myself to be stressed.

THE SPEAKER: It is perfectly human.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Can you see my hair Mr Speaker? It is still as dark as when you were 16 years.

THE SPEAKER: Are you sure that is the natural darkness it has?

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: As when you were 16 years, still as dark.

THE SPEAKER: Is that the natural colour?

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: You can enjoy it and you know that. Mr Speaker, Dickson Rogers wants to come up allow me to wrap up.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS [*Chief Whip*]: You mean Honourable Dickson Rogers?

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Yes, from Pujehun.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Thank you very much.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, Members of Parliament I am sure are still looking forward but I will consult my brother Honourable Kanneh to see what more effort he would put to ensure that the security arrangement which you directed is concluded.

Finally, I want to inform you Mr Speaker that the 10 Members of Parliament that the Court decided to get out of this Parliament have appealed and their appeal is now before the Court. So, I want to encourage you to apply and implement the Public Elections Act, Section 146. I thank you very much.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say thank you to the Leader of the Opposition for his contribution to the Debate. Mr Speaker, there are few things I want to clarify here. Mr Speaker, there is no vacuum in this Parliament, the Leader of Opposition who has just spoken was Deputy Speaker in this House who knows very well the procedures of Parliament. It is not because he was out of the jurisdiction that the functions of Parliament should not go ahead. That is why when he is not present the Deputy Leader on their side can deputise him. So, by saying that because he was not present for that reason the list was not ratified, I beg to differ. Mr Speaker, the Committee lists were announced and were passed by this House. We should not encourage the habit of when once Bills or lists are passed some other Member of Parliament because he or she was not present would come and say we should review the said Bills or lists. That is a very bad precedent.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on Security, I am sure this is not the first time Mr Leader of the Opposition is seeing the type of Security we have here today. I can give you few instances. When we were about to pass the State of Emergency during his tenure as Deputy Speaker, there were a lot of security personnel in this Parliament Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, the time they wanted to pass a Bill in this Well which says anybody who is not elected either as Mayor or a Member of Parliament should not be qualified to contest for Presidency, there were also a lot of security personnel in this Parliament Mr Speaker. So, I want to bring this to the attention of the public because he is portraying to the Gallery as if this is the first time he is seeing such number of security personnel in this Parliament. I want to make it known to the Gallery and the general public of this country that this is not the first time; it is not new Mr Speaker. That is my submission.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, firstly, I have been misunderstood by my colleague on the other side. I have never said it is because I was out of the jurisdiction, I never said that. I did not.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: You said you called the Speaker to hold on to the list because you were not here and when you were not here your Deputy was here.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: I did not, that is not what I said. Mr Speaker, for the edification of my colleague may I repeat? I said the issue happened whilst I was out of the jurisdiction and out of the abundance of caution I have to call you Mr Speaker. That is what I said. I said we are going against the list because the legal procedures have not been followed not because I was out of the jurisdiction *[Applause]*. it is very important Mr Speaker and Mr Speaker, I do not want to talk about history, I want to focus on the issue that we are discussing because what he has said is not true. In the case of the State of Emergency for the Ebola, the entire House agreed on it. In fact, the push for the State of Emergency was from the Opposition. The push was from the Members of Parliament from Kailahun and they led it. So, there was no need to bring the Police but I would not go into that. I want to focus on the issue under discussion that is ensuring that the Committees are constituted based on the Constitution which is sacred and our Standing Orders which guides our procedures in this House. I thank you very much.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, if the Honourable Leader of Opposition is done can we move on with the Business of the House please. Thank you *[Applause]*.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I agree with the Leader of Government Business. We are confirming that we were not part of the list so in effect there is no new Committee. If the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee is around he could lay the documents but not the new name that is listed in this Order Paper.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, since the Honourable Member has confirmed that he has actually gone through the Order Paper, can I move that we amend the Order Paper to read as follows? Item 4 of the Order Paper, the Sexual Offences Amendment Act, 2019 to be replaced with the Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service with Proposer, Honourable Sidie M. Tunis and the Seconder, Honourable Veronica K. Sesay. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I call on the Leader again. Honourable Leader, the amendment is not complete. Mr Speaker, I have listened to the proposed

amendment but Mr Leader again, our position is that item No. 3[1] either be expunged or we get the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee to do the laying. That is our position.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Leader of Opposition that is a proposal you have made, it is not for me to comment on that, it is up to the Honourable Speaker to make a ruling on that. Thank you.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Thank you very much. I agree with you and Mr Speaker based on your position as the guardian to all that is sacred in this House, yes I agree with you Mr Leader, the records will be there, I agree with you [*Undertone*]. Mr Speaker, I have referred you to Section 93 of the Constitution and I have also referred you to S. O 72[1] of our Standing Orders. Please Honourable Members listen. I agree with you, I just want to remind you [*Undertone*].

Mr Speaker, having also informed you, as I am speaking under oath because I took an oath to serve this House, the Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo my Deputy informed me yesterday in the presence of other Members that he is not a party to the list that was read in this House and I am speaking under oath Mr Speaker. He is yet to listen to what I have said, the Leader of Government Business has directed appropriately [*Undertone*].

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not intend to interrupt my Opposition Leader on the order side of the House but firstly, I want to bring to the attention of the House Standing Orders 35[5]. Whiles he was speaking, somebody made an unseemly interruption during his presentation and that is not an undertone but it is an affront to the Leadership of the House. I want that Member to take note of S.O 35[5]; you have to be mindful of the fact that when a Leader is speaking you do not make such unseemly intervention. Mr Speaker, for the progress of the proceedings of the House, I know you have issues to raise to the House, I believe you are a lawyer and you have served for nearly ten years, you have been here for a decade. There are always procedures in this House, if you can agree with me Honourable Leader on the other side, for the good of this House, I told you the last time Mr Speaker that it is always good for us to go through the Votes and Proceedings

first before we bring out other issues because it reminds us about what we have done in the past and how we are to progress. If you take a look at the Votes and Proceedings of the last Sitting of the House Mr Leader of the Opposition, you will realised that for that list a Motion was moved. On Page 9 on the announcement of Select Committee, a Motion was moved by the Honourable Leader of Government Business and seconded by the Honourable Mathew Sahr Nyuma, Mr Speaker, we are not against what our Honourable Opposition Leader is bringing up for now, but we are encouraging you to use the appropriate channels and procedures by coming up with a Motion. Because as my Honourable Chief Whip said that, **"we had your Deputy Leader who was here with us, if he was aggrieved he would have moved a motion and he did not move a counter Motion for the lists."** So, we are expecting that if you are aggrieved, there are procedures in the Standing Orders which you should follow. And it is the same thing I was talking on the use of the microphones. I have just quoted S.O 35[5], Honourable Leader on the other side please do not take this place to be a market place, here is the House of Parliament, somebody cannot just shout as if we are in the market we are not in a market place *[Undertone]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Leader has just cited various provisions in the Constitution and that of the Standing Orders and there are also provisions to be used to counter if you think you are aggrieve but if we had passed that one through a Motion and it is recorded in the Votes and Proceedings, we are only encouraging him if there are grievances to be addressed by you Mr Speaker, let him take the appropriate procedures so that we can address this issue. As for me, I will toe the line of my Leader for us to continue the business of the House and see what we can do about that through your Leadership. Thank you very much. That is my humble submission *[Applause]*.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: I thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my point and position is very simple. The Leader of Government Business has even made it easier for you Mr Speaker. I said I am speaking under oath and the information I got from my Deputy is what I am repeating under oath. So, if I

am misleading this House, misinforming or lying, let me finish Mr Speaker, I know where you want to go *[Undertone]*. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during parliamentary proceedings, I do not want to talk on other issues for them to send me back to what happened five or ten years ago. No, this is the New Direction, we are moving forward *[Undertone]*. We cannot be misdirected under a New Direction *[Undertone]*. Mr Speaker, there is a Business Committee in this House, let me finish this before I am distracted *[Undertone]*. Mr Speaker, in this House when you preside, the procedure is you put a question, but if there is a Counter Motion, it must be listened to. Also, I was informed again by my Members that when they stood up, you said no, you have ruled. I was informed Mr Speaker, to make this very easy for us, let us skip item 3[a] or item 1 and let us make progress.

THE SPEAKER: At this point, can you kindly come forward? Honourable Members, Order! Order! I have listened with great attention to the issues raised by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and I wish to take particular note of the citation he has made by referring to the provisions of Section 93 of the Constitution and the Standing Orders and it is very clear to me that what we did in the last Sitting of this Parliament was in conformity with the provisions of Section 93 of the Constitution and the Standing Orders. On that understanding, we shall now move forward and not backwards *[Applause]*.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, you have just read the motto of the APC “forward ever backward never” that is what you have just done. We are moving forward not backwards. So, you should move the APC way.

THE SPEAKER: Actually I did not have that in mind.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Well, you should move the APC way Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker but if you insist, forward ever backwards never. Honourable Veronica knows about that very well *[Undertone]*.

THE SPEAKER: We are moving forward.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Well Mr Speaker, I want to put a Motion.

THE SPEAKER: You want to put a Motion to get you to where?

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Yes Mr Speaker. I want to put a Motion.

THE SPEAKER: What is your Motion?

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: That the Committee list that was pronounced last Thursday did not follow the procedures as laid out in Section 93[5] of the Constitution and S.O 72[1]. So, on that note, I move that the list be expunged from our records.
[Applause].

THE SPEAKER: Any Secunder to that Motion?

HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

THE SPEAKER: No, wait a minute, there is a Motion, any Secunder to the Motion?

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: I so Second Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed Put and Disagreed To]

[The Motion for the Select Committees list to be expunged has not been carried]

THE SPEAKER: Shall we move forward please Leader of Government Business?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, I am on my legs Sir. I stand on S.O 46[1]. Mr Speaker, it is very clear that you cannot determine Majority by voices, you cannot.

THE SPEAKER: What?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: You cannot determine Majority by voices alone. So, on that note, I am standing on S.O 46 [1] for a vote to be taken on this issue. That is my Motion Sir. Thank you very much.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 32[7] to indicate that Honourable Daniel B. Koroma is out of Order. Pursuant to S.O 32[7] which reads: **"It shall be out of Order to attempt to reconsider any specific question upon which the House has come to conclusion during the current Session except upon a substantive Motion for decision"** *[Applause].*

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: In fact, by a way of response what you have read concludes the matter. What Honourable Gevao has read concludes the matter. He should have taken note of that exceptional clause except if there is a substantive Motion. You did not take note of that so it is not even worth responding to thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, do you wish to insist on S.O 46[1]

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Yes Mr Speaker, I wish to insist on S.O 46[1]

THE SPEAKER: I will put the Question for the second time. You have already heard the Motion Honourable Members.

[Question Proposed Put and Disagreed To]

[The Motion on the list of Select Committees to be expunged from the records of the Votes and Proceedings has not been carried]

HON. ABDUL K. KARAMA: Nobody seconded the Motion Mr Speaker.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, there was no Question from your Chair. They can replay the record if you want to but there was no Question from your Chair.

THE SPEAKER: I said all Members that heard the Motion.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: There was no Motion

THE SPEAKER: It was your Motion.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: No, we have voted on that, it is Daniel's statement that is on the Floor.

THE SPEAKER: No, Daniel was reacting to the collection of voices issue and he referred to S.O 46[1] and the Substantive Motion before the House was your Motion.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: It is voted upon already that is what I am saying. My Motion is not before the House anymore it has been voted upon that is why he is rising in furtherance to the votes that were pronounced. The Motion was concluded.

THE SPEAKER: But he was challenging the ruling that I have made.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: By another Motion.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Daniel, I want you to read Section 46[1] starting from the word "after" somewhere half way.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, in the first place, we cannot read the relevant portion in isolation. It has to be holistic and the purport for which it has been drafted, it has to be read holistically, it is not just an isolated portion.

THE SPEAKER: No, I am not inviting any comments from you. I am simply saying if you insist kindly read S.O 46[1]. I was about to shorten it for you by saying start reading from the word "after" but since you say the entire provision should be read and understood then so be it. Go ahead.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, I have read and understood before I put this Motion. I have read and understood and what I said as to my reasons for standing on this relevant Standing Order is to do head count by voting and that is exactly what S.O 46[1] is saying. What I am expecting now is for you to ask for a Secunder to the Motion rather than go back to a Motion that has already been concluded.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is very clear here that S.O 46[1] is asking for vote on the Motion based on division or voices. I have read and understood and that is why I am standing on this relevant portion. No, you cannot tell me I have to read as if we are in the class room [*Undertone*]. I have read and understood and that is my reason for standing on this relevant S.O 46[1] for votes to be taken on this issue. I thank you.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, he has refused to read the necessary provision. Let me come Sir, he has not [*Undertone*].

THE SPEAKER: No, he has not. I have invited him to read and he has refused to read it.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I will refer you to S.O 46[2]. Mr Speaker, you have called for the 'Ayes' and the 'Nays' but what has happened, twice you have put the question using S.O 46[1] and in your opinion even from the collection of voices

you can realise that those in favour of the Motion are far less than those that are against the Motion. It is clear in the collection of voices. If you go to S.O 46[2] it is clear that you have heard the 'Ayes' and the 'Nays'. No, it is clear Honourable Leader *[Undertone]*. If you want we can do it by the showing of hands or we stand if that is what you want we can do it. Mr Speaker, let us do it by the showing of hands if they are challenging that but S.O 46[2] have been entered into.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

THE SPEAKER: What is your Point of Order?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, my Point of Order is S.O 32[2]. It is becoming a habit in this House that when you are addressing the House some other Members do not resume their seats and it is stated in S.O 32[2] that: **"If two or more Members rise at the same time, Mr Speaker or the Chairman shall call on the Member who first catches his eye."** Honourable Nyuma was standing after you have given the Order and the Honourable Member over there was standing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think it is becoming a habit in this Well now that when the Speaker speaks or addresses the House, Honourable Members do not retire to their seats. The other day, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition told us that they will no longer walk out but they will make sure that they debar the progress of this House. That is the new trend I am beginning to realise. For every day we come to this House, I see Members on the other side trying to deliberately stop the day to day running of this House and Mr Speaker I think that is bad. It is becoming a habit, we are now going to an hour; we have not even gone through the Votes and Proceedings. That was the same thing they did last week. So, Mr Speaker, I think you should take control of this House. Thank you Mr Speaker. It is becoming a habit, they have decided that they will no longer walkout but they will disrupt the proceedings of this House and that should not be accepted.

THE SPEAKER: I am not going to entertain any other Member of Parliament but the Honourable Daniel B. Koroma. Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, I am coming back to you

for the benefit of this House. I am sure as you are prone to remind all of us for the benefit of the general public if I may use your familiar phrase, will you kindly read S.O 46 [1] for us?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the purpose of clarity and edification of Members and viewers, I am to read for my understanding or are you saying I should read for the hearing of everybody? Just for clarity because as far as I am concern I have read and understood. I am to read for the hearing of everybody? I can do so but just for the purpose of clarity, what are you specifically saying Mr Speaker? I am to read for the hearing of everybody which I can do?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, what did you hear me say?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I did not understand.

THE SPEAKER: You did not?

HON. DAINEL B. KOROMA: I heard you but I did not understand. You know, I am not as intelligent as you are so please help me. I am to read for the hearing of everybody? If that is the case then I can and I will read word for word, line by line and clause by clause.

THE SPEAKER: You are asking for a division. Are you still insisting on the division that you requested? That is what S.O 46[1] is about.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Indeed Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I have put the Question a second time. Would you agree that I have put the Question a second time?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: No Sir. Mr Speaker, you cannot put a Question on a Motion that has already been concluded and even what S.O 46[1] is saying there are also rules.

THE SPEAKER: I have not giving you the Floor. Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, I ask you for the last time if you do not read S.O 46[1], if you do not read it aloud to the

hearing of all of us I will rule you out of Order and we shall proceed with the day's business.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, having understood you, I now read aloud. It reads: **"When a division has been claimed, or if the opinion of Mr Speaker or the Chairman as to the decision of a question by collection of voices is challenged."**

THE SPEAKER: Do you need glasses? I do not mind giving you mine.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, I am not constrained.

THE SPEAKER: You are putting words that are not in S.O 46[1]. Start again please.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I am not that mischievous Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: No but maybe I do not know, okay because I was about to make you have the benefit of my glasses.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I am not constrained Mr Speaker. Thank you very much for your magnanimity. I will start again with your leave S.O 46[1]: **"when a division has been claimed, or if the opinion of Mr Speaker or the Chairman as to the decision of a question by collection of voices is challenged, the Speaker or the Chairman shall direct that Members outside the debating-Chamber be informed that a division has been claimed. After the lapse of ten minutes from the time of this direction, the Speaker or the Chairman shall put the question a second time, and if the division is again claimed or if the opinion of the Speaker or the Chairman is again challenged, he may take the vote of the House or Committee by calling upon the Members who support and who challenge his decision successively to rise in their places; and he shall thereupon, as he thinks fit, either declare the determination of the House or Committee or call upon the Clerk to call the names of Members in alphabetical order. And the Clerk shall enter in the Votes and Proceedings a record of each Member's vote and of the names of Members who decline to vote."** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is very clear.

THE SPEAKER: I did not invite any interpretation here from the Honourable Member.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: But Mr Speaker, for the edification of the public, I think it is necessary.

THE SPEAKER: There you are again.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Yes always because we are here representing the public and we are here on their mandate [*Applause*] and we need to as long as this Parliament is by the people we must be seen acting for the people. That is why I am always conscious about the edification of the public.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think the Honourable Member has made it very easy for every one of us. The Speaker has asked him to read, he read the relevant section of the Standing Order and it is very clear. The Honourable Speaker put the Question for the first time and base on your questions after the ten minutes he puts the second Question and for me and for this side of the House, the Honourable Speaker at the time he put the second Question if he was convinced that there was a division he would have called for vote but he has already ruled. So, it is over already. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, go ahead.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I am sure the Leader of Government Business was in this House when I rose and said to you clearly that the second Question was never put, I did. You said "**I am sure you understood the Question**" and I said that is not the Question. The Question you brought up had to do with the Proposer that was initiated under S.O 46[1]. My Motion, I told you have been disposed of. So, if you had wanted to put the Question again you were supposed to have pronounced the Question but not to presume. When there is an intervening clause you should not presume you are a Lawyer and you know that.

THE SPEAKER: No Sir, I had put the Question based on the Motion that you raised Mr Leader of the Opposition.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I never want to disagree with you, the records here are very clear, you said "*I am sure you understood the Question*", we said which Question and then you put it but the second issue that was raised intervened after the vote without concluding it. You said "**I am sure you understood the Question I am going to put**" we said which Question that was why Members on this side never voted. Yes, Members never voted because they never understood. You were supposed to be clear and unequivocal to repeat the Question.

THE SPEAKER: Let us be clear about it. What was your Motion?

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, my Motion is very clear based on all what I have said.

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Thank you very much the Honourable from Pujehun. Mr Speaker, no, I value time so much [*Undertone*].

THE SPEAKER: Are you sure that you value time so much are you sure?

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Yes, I do. I do value time but I believe in respecting rules and laws as well it is more important than rushing for time. As I was saying, based on all what I have said including what the Honourable I. B. Kargbo my Deputy reported to me which I had informed this House this morning, my Motion was very simple that the list which was read last Thursday purportedly establishing Sessional Select Committees be expunged from the records and that Motion was Seconded and I did it under no stress.

THE SPEAKER: And it was that very Question I put to the House.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, when we voted, Honourable Daniel rose on S.O 46[1] and then you did not put a Question again that is the point I am making. You ruled on that by saying the 'Nays' have it but then he rose on S.O 46[1] to say he wanted a division. This is for the records.

THE SPEAKER: No, if you read S.O 46[1] it obliges me to put the Question a second time.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, that is what you did not do and that is what I am saying. The records are there.

THE SPEAKER: To the best of my recollection I think I did.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, may I repeat your words that ***"I believe all of you understand the Motion so, I put the Question again."***

THE SPEAKER: The Motion was very clear. Your Motion was that the list of Committee Members be expunged from the Votes and Proceedings. Is that what you said or not?

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: That is what I said Mr Speaker but that is what you did not repeat the second time.

THE SPEAKER: Fine, you want me to do so now?

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Yes Mr Speaker. Thank you Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed Put and Disagreed To]

[The Motion on the list of Select Committees to be expunged from the Records of the Votes and Proceedings has not been carried]

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker Honourable Members, based on the same S.O 46[1] I am still challenging this decision and I am asking for a division to be determined by vote *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank all Honourable Members for the guidance you have been giving to Mr Speaker. Take you seats please. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition is in sync with me; he understands perfectly what we are trying to do. Do you agree and I am going to be very specific here. Do you agree Honourable Members that the Question has been put for the second time?

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, yes we have agreed.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: So, we want to move to the next stage.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. So let us move to the next stage and what is the next stage? I am sure I can make a comfortable prediction here. I can make a very comfortable prediction that what we are witnessing today is going to be the precursor of what is likely to obtain in this House from now on. So, from time to time, Honourable Members you should be prepared for the frequent invocation of S. O 46[1]

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I do not see it that way. It is better we consult and agree before Sittings it will help us avoid most of these issues rather than looking forward to S.O 46[1] *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, with the greatest deference to you, I will say this. I was quite satisfied with the consultations that took place in your absence. I am speaking for myself, you may have been briefed not only by your Deputy but by many other Honourable Members but for your benefit, I will share this with you. When I said I was quite satisfied that proper consultations were held, we came to this House and the very first thing we did was to constitute the Committee of Selection following which I made an announcement that, that Committee should meet with me at 3:00 p.m. after we rose from the Well. That meeting duly took place in my Chambers and the Committee of Selection as you know carries your title as a Member but in your absence I invited your Deputy to join us and to stand in your stead. We duly met and agreed on the list for every Committee that was subsequently announced. The following meeting of this Parliament, the list as agreed by the Committee of Selection was announced one by one by the Leader of Government Business at the end of which I put the Question and the Question was agreed on and that was the situation.

Honourable Member, now you getting that briefing from me but still that has not satisfied your side this is why you were prompted if I may please have your ears, based on the briefing you received you were prompted to move the Motion for expunging the list of the Committees as contained in the Votes and Proceedings from the record that has been put once and also has been put twice. So we are now at the stage where I must invite those who are in favour of your Motion to rise and be counted and those

who are against to equally rise and be counted *[Undertone]*. There is no secret ballot here, read S.O 46[1]. I will not entertain any more discussion on this issue. I will read for the benefit of the House that portion of S.O 46[1] that is pertinent to the point that we have arrived at. With the greatest respect to you Honourable I.B. Kargbo take your seat. I will read from the middle of the Standing Orders concerned **"...and if a division is again claimed or if the opinion of the Speaker or the Chairman is again challenged, he may take the vote of the House by calling upon the Members who support and who challenge his decision successively to rise in their places, and he shall there upon as he thinks fit either declare the determination of the House or call upon the Clerk to call the names of Members in alphabetical order."** I am now saying you rise and be counted. I am sorry; I am going strictly by that Provision now.

[Question Proposed Put and Disagreed To]

[The Motion on the list of Select Committees to be expunged from the records of the Votes and Proceedings has not been carried]

THE SPEAKER: The result of that vote will be duly recorded in the Votes and Proceedings of this meeting. The 'Nays' have it *[Applause]*. We shall now proceed with the business of the day Mr Leader of Government Business.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Point of Order Mr Speaker. Please Mr Speaker; I will encourage my colleagues to sit down. I want to read Section 91 of the 1991 Constitution Act No. 6 **"Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, any question proposed for decision in Parliament shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the Members present and voting."** Thank you Mr Speaker *[Applause]*. Mr Speaker, we want to proceed with the Business of the House that is the reason I quoted Section 91. We want to proceed with the Business of the House Mr Speaker. With all due respect Sir, we have done everything humanly possible for them to understand that you are on the right track, you have even given them a lot of leverage for them to understand.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members to my left I am asking you to take your seats.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Mr Speaker it is our view here that colleagues on the other side are in violation of S.O 32[2]. Mr Speaker, they are all standing and S.O. 32[2] says: **“If two or more Members rise at the same time, Mr Speaker or the chairman shall call on the Member who first catches his eye.”** Mr Speaker, this is an Honourable House. This is the House of Parliament and we come here to make laws and they are disturbing the Sitting of the House; that is a violation of the very purpose for which we come to Parliament. As colleagues, I call upon you to sit down and give all of us respect.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in consonant with S.O. 32[3] I am asking all Honourable Members who are standing to please take their seats. So, this is the new protestation of the Honourable Members, no Walkouts anymore now it is standing up? Well you can stand till dooms day I will not recognise you. Okay, I will listen to Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo.

HON: IBRIHAM. B KARGBO: Mr Speaker, when you announced here about the formation of a new Committee.

THE SPEAKER: Order! Let us listen to the Honourable I.B. Kargbo please.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: You made it very clear that I was not a Member of that Committee even though my boss was a Member of the Committee. You requested that I could sit in, I went to your Office and sat in and I did not utter a word or sign any document. After that we left your Office and we came to the Well but remember Mr Speaker, three Members of Parliament one from that side and two of us from this side, we stood in this Well and argued with you to allow us postpone the activities of the day because we thought we needed time as our own Leader was not here and the other side also wanted a postponement. We pleaded over and again. I am sure that a good number of people did plead with you but you did not listen to us. If you had listened to us and accepted what is happening now would not have happened at all. Because I saw

what was going to happen that was why we pleaded for us to wait until we get this thing properly done but you did not wait.

Mr Speaker, believe me I will make it very clear anywhere that I am not a Member of that Committee I also want it to be made very clear that my boss was not there and because he was not there I was unable to take part effectively in the whole process. Thank you very much.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Thank you very, Mr Speaker. May I just come in Sir?

THE SPEAKER: Yes please.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am very happy that the Honourable Member has confirmed that he was in the meeting and for any future meetings I can assure you if your Leader is not present by practice and by law we will always call upon you. However, I just want to make something very clear for everybody in this House. We have seven Members in the Selection Committee. There is no Law which says that all seven Members have to be present for decisions to be taken, no Law. Mr Leader of the Opposition you know that there is no Law. The Committee had a quorum, we met and we took decisions. So, that is it. If you are against the decision that we had made, you have every right to object like you have done. Now, for me it is over because you raised your objection and we have put it on the Floor, we have voted on it and that has passed. If the Speaker has made a ruling, for me that is the end of it. Thank you very much.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I have been mentioned so I have to say something.

THE SPEAKER: By all means.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. May I go over what I said this morning in a minute? Again, we know that there are procedures in Parliament and those procedures should be respected by all of us. The formation of Committees is always preceded by the Leaders seating, agreeing on distribution of Committees and when that is agreed upon, assignments are given to the Whips of the various Parties to

assign their Members into these various Committees based on the quota. My point is very simple, that was not done; it was not. The foundation itself was not proper. I mean when we distribute Committees, the Paramount Chiefs should be distributed into all of these Committees. I looked at the list and they were not on it but they have to fight for themselves. The point I made Mr Speaker which I want to re-echo is that the procedure which was supposed to have been followed before the list is announced in this Chamber was not followed *[Applause]* and since it was not followed Mr Speaker, do not forget, Mr Speaker let me finish please I want to finish. I am not yet done please. I am pleading with you let me finish. I agree that is not for me but I am just responding to a statement that was made from your Leader *[Undertone]*.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 45[1&2]

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Whether you use all of the Standing Orders, I have to complete. Mr Speaker, like you said earlier, do I have your ears? Mr Speaker, it is very easy you know, for those lawyers in this House, we always distinguish what is void from what is voidable, what is voidable could be avoided but what is void is void. This is a situation that is void it cannot be patched. No amount of thread or needle would be sufficient enough to patch this because the foundation itself is non-existence. There is no foundation, where you want to put the structure? As I said and you guided me well, we want history to judge all of us on the right path which I agreed with you. As the guardian of this noble Institution you have a role to play and the primary one added to the others that are auxiliary is to ensure that our rules and laws of this land are properly guided.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. You have not got my eye on this side please. A very important point has been raised by the Leader of the Opposition and I will try to respond to him.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, you know, I started by raising the issue about the Standing Orders. I have cited various Provisions in the Constitution and other Sections. Again Section 70, I heard my colleague on the other side, Select Committee they are not going to give you any document to sign. If you read S.O 70 on the Select

Committee, there is nowhere stated that you are to sign any document. I am convinced that you attended the meeting; a consensus was reached at that meeting but let me land S.O. 70, I read.

THE SPEAKER: No, please I beg to save time I have listened to you.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Let me land Mr Speaker, Mr Speaker we reached a Motion which is recorded in the Votes and Proceedings. It is clear in the Votes and Proceedings that we moved a Motion and the Motion was seconded. There was no Counter Motion towards adopting the Committee list that was carried we have it on records. Finally, in this House today you have given them a lot of leverage, a lot of latitude for them to bring out Motions, they have done that and we have voted and you have given your decision but we are still on the same stage without moving forward. Therefore, we are asking you Mr Speaker to please ensure that the business of the House move forward. We are waiting for your final decision for us to carry on with the business of the day. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Let me listen to the Honourable Veronica K. Sesay.

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have been listening keenly; this is just to derail the process. To my own knowledge, when the Chairman is absent there is the Deputy who will be present to take decisions. I heard my brother on the other side the Honourable Chernor Bah saying that he was not present but your Deputy was present. It is very unfortunate you know, I have great respect for Honourable I.B Kargbo, I have great respect for you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that day, when Mr Speaker called that meeting at 3:00 p.m., I was present; I think four of us were present. If the Committee is made up of seven Members and four of us were present I think there was a quorum. So, for you to say you did not participate actively it is very unfortunate sir. The decision has been taken. To my dismay, even names were duplicated wherein Honourable Kadie Davies and the Honourable Member who died of blessed memory, their names were included.

That is why you have your Deputy Leader *[Undertone]*. I am speaking let me finish. They were included and these names were been replaced not by Sierra Leone People's Party [SLPP] Honourable Members but by the All Peoples Congress Party [APC] Honourable Members. The Honourable Member was holding the paper, he was giving the names. So, why are we wasting time whiles we have terms of reference here. We are just wasting time and it is very unfortunate. We have been here, we have spent nearly one hour on this.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, please, I am asking that we proceed because their Deputy was present. If they do not believe in Honourable I. B's own knowledge or they do not have respect for his Leadership they have to do otherwise but their Deputy Leader was present but he said he only paid lip service. Honourable Quinton was present, I was present, Honourable Sidie Tunis was present and the quorum was formed. He held the paper; in fact he helped to give the names. So, why are we wasting time here? Thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to thyself be true. I have been giving the Floor *[Undertone]*. Mr Speaker?

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Thank God that I am present and you were present at the meeting. I also would state that I did sit at the meeting but I am not certain that what the Honourable Lady has just said is true. I did not take part in vetting any document. In fact, I continued stating that it was necessary for us to wait but we did not wait. I have great respect for the Madam but the fact of the matter is that I think the Honourable Tunis and the Honourable Speaker who were all present would testify to the fact that I did not verify any document. To me it is very important that we have this matter resolved.

THE SPEAKER: Let me make this abundantly clear. A meeting of the Committee of Selection did take place in my Chambers where the list that is in question, the lists in fact I should say were discussed and agreed. I am fully satisfied that the procedure employed is consistent with the provisions of both the Constitution and the Standing Orders *[Applause]*. Before this House, I recall when objections were raised I think by

both Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara on this side and the Honourable Ibrahim Tawa on the other side. I have not invited you Honourable Lahai Marah [*Undertones*]. When those two Honourable Members stood, no they raised another issue a quite separate issue [*Undertone*]. I reminded them that the House was already late. If you look at the language of Section 93 of the 1991 Constitution, I reminded them that the House was already late in constituting the Select Committees and implored them to allow the process to proceed so that by the time we got back to the next Sitting of this House those Committees would have been properly constituted. On the understanding that indeed the relevant provisions of both the 1991 Constitution and the Standing Orders were complied with to the letter and spirit.

We shall now proceed with the order of the day. Votes and Proceedings of the Ninth Meeting, we would skip Pages 1 through to 4 and start with Page 5. Any amendment on Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Can somebody please move?

HON. ALUSINE KANNEH: I so move Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any Seconder?

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: I so Second Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 20th June, 2019 has been adopted]

III. PAPERS LAID

[i] HONOURABLE ABDUL TITUS KAMARA, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

HON. ABDUL T. KAMARA: Mr Speaker.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker, I think we are still objecting.

THE SPEAKER: What Standing Order are you standing on?

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker, I am standing on S. O 72 [1].

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker I want to stand on S. O 45[1&2]

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: I am standing on S .O 72[1] in tandem with S. O 34. Mr Speaker, with your leave I read: **"Pursuant to subsection [5] of Section 93 of the Constitution every Select Committee shall be so constituted as to ensure, so far as it is possible, that the strength of the political parties and Independent Members, [Including Paramount Chiefs] in the House is reflected in the Committee."** For the list Mr Speaker, as far as we know I can look at the list now and point out areas where we can see that discrepancy.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I am standing on a Point of Order?

THE SPEAKER: What Point of Order?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I am standing on S. O 45[1&2]

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker that is why we have the entrenched clauses in the Constitution, when they are entrenched they cannot be tampered with.

THE SPEAKER: S.O 45?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: S. O 45[1&2]

THE SPEAKER: Yes

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, no Member may speak to any question after it has been fully put by Mr Speaker or the Chairman and a question is fully put when Mr Speaker or the Chairman has collected the voices both of the Ayes and of the Nays Mr Speaker, I believe the Standing Orders my colleague is standing on we have voted on it, I think the votes has passed and you have made your ruling. We should not go back to that.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in addition to that let me draw your attention to S. O 32[7] which says: **"It shall be out of order to attempt to reconsider any specific question upon which the House has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a substantive motion for decision."** Shall we please proceed? I will entertain absolutely no further interruptions based on S. O 32[7] *[Applause]*.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker, I do not think we are interrupting. As far as we are concern on this side it was not justifiably concluded. Mr Speaker, we are only saying let us do the needful. That is what we are saying.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat. Honourable Titus Kamara you have the Floor.

HON. ABDUL T. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of the House a Forensic Audit Report on the activities of the Bank of Sierra Leone, Ministries, Departments and Agencies from July 2015 to June 2018 *[Applause]*.

[ii] HONOURABLE HINDOLO M. GEVAO, CHAIRMAN, HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this House the document titled: Parliamentary Human Rights Committee Report on the Monitoring of the Sierra Leone Correctional Centres in Freetown and the Provinces held in July to September, 2018*[Applause]*.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is exactly what I am talking about. Honourable Members, there is no document before you; the records could speak because his voice has not been captured and all he has said has not been captured. The records could show.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, I sincerely want to give you the Floor but I cannot whiles the rest of your Members are standing.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Honourable Members let me say something now.

THE SPEAKER: Would you please ask your Members to comply?

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Honourable Gevao, switch off your microphone. You have not laid any Paper before this House.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Leader of the Opposition, you talk to the Speaker not me.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, I was waiting for this moment not to expose illegality but to continue to tell the public that what is happening is totally wrong. I was waiting for this point.

THE SPEAKER: So, go ahead.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Mr Speaker, let me proceed? Mr Speaker, I will not deliberately delay this House.

THE SPEAKER: What do you think you are doing?

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Exactly.

THE SPEAKER: Chief Whip, what do you think you are doing?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I think you are taking too much from the other side as we have been here for over two hours.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of Government Business, please, take charge of your side.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, the Order Paper I referred to earlier this morning dated Thursday 27th June 2019, the supposed or purported document that has just been laid by Honourable Abdul Titus Kamara, yes because it has still not been laid before the House [*Undertone*] Mr Speaker, if you read the title that has been ascribed to him as 'Deputy Chairman Public Accounts Committee' that is what has been ascribed to him. If you go to item No.2, the illegal list before us in this House captured the Honourable Gevao from Kialahun as Chairman of Human Rights Committee but that list is capturing him as Chairman of Legislative Committee.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition?

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Yes Sir.

THE SPEAKER: In all seriousness will you ascribe the word "*illegal*" to the list before this House?

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Yes, I will Mr Speaker and I will keep to that because as far as I am concern, I still believe that the list has not complied with the laws that are supposed to guide it [*Applause*]. Mr Speaker, Honourable Gevao during the last Session, [Interrupted]

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order?

THE SPEAKER: Hold on.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition?

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Yes, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: We started today's proceedings with a Motion and we went through the Motion. S. O 46[1] was cited to me and we went through the Motion. S. O 46[1] was cited to me which I listened to and I accepted and the House proceeded on the bases of S. O 46[1] in considering and taking a decision on your Motion which we have done. So, it surprises me considering your position to hear you ascribe the word "illegal" to a list that has been dully passed by this House.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, you have reminded us of what transpired this morning. Again, I repeat Mr Speaker. Even if the votes that were counted could take you back to that, I did not support the position that is now been considered as standing the test of time in this House. My position is that the list is illegal [*Applause*] and I voted against the position which suggests the list to stay because I do not believe it is legal? That was why I voted against it. If it was legal as I said earlier I would have supported it. Anything legal in this House I will not go against.

THE SPEAKER: All I can say Mr Leader of the Opposition and taking into special account the revered position that you occupy in this House, I will response to you from this Chair by saying that is your personal opinion. I will be guided by the decision of this House and I am moving forward.

HON. CHERNOR R. M BAH: Mr Speaker, I agree with you but my position is that the list is illegal. I agree with you.

THE SPEAKER: That is your own opinion.

HON. CHERNOR R. M BAH: My position as well not just my opinion.

THE SPEAKER: Having made that comment, do you want to say anything further before we proceed?

HON. CHERNOR R. M BAH: Because I was making my point before you stopped me to bring some clarifications. I was saying Mr Speaker that during the last Session the Honourable Member from Kailahun was Chairman of the Human Rights Committee and that list is now presuming to move him to the Legislative Committee. On this Order Paper he is still been acknowledged not as former Chairman but as Chairman of Human Rights Committee. So, it is just to confirm if the old list is what is obtaining *[Applause]*.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having heard the Honourable Member, can we now proceed with the Business of the House please? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, I take the point that indeed you are correct. When you say the designation giving to Honourable Gevao is not correct. It is now been corrected.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, I wish to correct it as follows: Honourable Hindolo Moiwo Gevao, Chairman, Legislative Committee.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader, your point is well taking. I will now allow the Leader of Government Business to make the correction. The correction has been made. Is the Honourable Gevao here? I do not think you have completed the process, have you?

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: I have not. Mr Speaker, I as Chairman of Legislative Committee and a former Chairman of Human Rights Committee in which capacity I was when the Report was been done.

THE SPEAKER: Proceed on the bases of your current designation.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as former Chairman of the Human Rights Committee, I beg to lay on the Table a Parliamentary Human Rights Committee Report on the monitoring visit to the Sierra Leone Correctional Centres in Freetown and the Provinces held in July to September, 2018.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

THE SPEAKER: I recognise the Honourable Manly-Spain.

HON. AJIBOLA E. MANLY-SPAIN: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I think we should bring some semblance of decorum into this House. Mr Speaker, if we go to the recording, it would be proved that Honourable Gevao purportedly laid a Paper. Is he laying the same Paper again? The Honourable Leader of Government Business should not have come to the Table to take the Paper and give it to Honourable Gevao again. There are several ways of going about it. Like you said the correction has been made, the Paper should have been withdrawn formally and laid again but not for the Honourable Leader of Government Business to come and take it and give it to Honourable Gevao who was insisting on laying the Paper in his former designation or the nomenclature that is on the Order Paper. Even though, our Leader was trying to stop him he continued to read. Our Leader said you have not been recorded because your microphone was not on. He came forward and laid the Paper on the Table. What are we doing Mr Speaker?

THE SPEAKER: No, you are right.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: That is why the Honourable Speaker did not recognise it.

THE SPEAKER: I did not recognise the first laying precisely for the reason that you have stated and that is why I have invited him to re-lay the Paper a second time. We shall now proceed.

HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I still want to lend credence to S.O 72. Mr Speaker, we are aware that the drafters of the Standing Orders

were not much foreshadowing to see the future like what befell 2018. Instead of having the traditional two parties as Majority and Minority here we are today having more of minority parties in this House. So, I feel constrain to comment on the chicanery between the two bigger parties because at the end of the day we realise that the diction you will see in S.O 72 is just Majority and Minority. Mr Speaker, it is high time that the drafters go back to the drawing board to look at the future that befell 7th March, 2018 when we realised the entrance of more minority political parties in this House. I have said it times without number that if the House is to be seen to be smoothly running the proceedings then I still stand on the essence of consensus building, negotiation and political compromise. It will go a long way to help this House. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you are quite correct. You raised this matter in the last Session, we dealt with this matter and I made a ruling on it. Until such time that the Standing Orders are amended to be able to capture this new development we agreed by way of adaptation to proceed. Thank you.

HON. SAHR CHARLES: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the issue just raised by the Leader of the Coalition for Change [C4C] is very important. I could well remember during the last Session you made it here very clear that the proceedings of this particular Parliament will be one that recognises the Leadership of all political parties but when issues are brought up in the House, we have seen it clearly that under your Leadership here you only give preference to the two bigger parties that is the SLPP and APC. We are very concern about that. This is something that you made a ruling on, that moving forward as a Parliament we will be recognising other political parties other than the two major political parties.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having said that, the issue we have just witnessed here this afternoon concerning the Paper that has been laid before the House, I want to know something clear in which capacity did Honourable Gevao laid the Paper? He is a Member of the Human Rights Committee I have gone through the list and on the Order

Paper I saw during the presentation he is been referred to again as Chairman of the Legislative Committee.

THE SPEAKER: You raised a question; may I ask the Leader of Government Business to answer that so we can move forward? *[Interruption]*

HON. SAHR CHARLES: Mr Speaker, it is not about answering the question or making amendment now. My concern here is, who is in the rightful capacity that is supposed to lay this Paper because by hierarchy, for every Committee we know that if the Chairman is not present but the Deputy Chairman is present and the Deputy Chairman should act in the capacity of the Chairman. The Human Rights Committee we have here, if we are to go by this document there is a Chairman and a Deputy. If the Chairperson of the Committee is not present here I believe the Deputy of the Committee should be given the task to lay the Paper instead of a Member of the Committee. This is my point Mr Speaker. It is high time we start putting things the right way in this House. Thank you.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I rise on S.O 76. Mr Speaker, can I be heard Sir?

THE SPEAKER: On S.O 76?

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Yes Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Are we rehearsing what happened the last time?

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: We are not rehearsing. Mr Speaker, we would not have reached this point if you had listen to us.

THE SPEAKER: Because you have raised S. O 76.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: That is why I am taking you back.

THE SPEAKER: No, you cannot.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: I am not taking you back on the issues raised, but I am bringing back to this House what you said to us. At least if that was what we had followed we would not have been where we are. I remembered you fully said: 'The out-

going Chairmen should surrender their reports to the in-coming Chairpersons'. That was what you said Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: We have dealt with that issue; I even placed a time limit.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: The time limit was for them to submit to the new Chairmen. So, Honourable Gevao should have submitted to Hon. Zainab C. Tarawally that was what you said in this House. Mr Speaker, the way you are moving positions these days is also corrupting this House *[Applause]*.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

THE SPEAKER: Will you repeat what you have just said?

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Yes Sir.

THE SPEAKER: I did not quite hear your last word.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the record I will say it again. The way you are moving positions when it comes to matters of this House is also responsible for the corruption in the House. That is what I said exactly, Mr Speaker *[Applause]*. I said it and I will stand by it because the other day you said they should report to the in-coming Chairmen and that was so clear and we agreed on a four week period. So, we see no need for Honourable Gevao to come as the out-going Chairman to report to this House based on your ruling Mr Speaker. We should not be rushing things, this is your ruling. I am not adding anything to what you said I am just saying exactly what you said to this House.

THE SPEAKER: That particular language would be expunged from the records. I will take it that you never really made that statement young Honourable Abdul Karim. I will take it that you never meant to say it and that particular word will be expunged from the records. You know, my patience is been task to a point where I am likely to surprise a good number of you one day.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, for the records. I am the Deputy Chairman of the Ethics Committee; I am saying this for the records.

THE SPEAKER: Which Committee?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: The Ethics Committee of which I am the Deputy Chairman and the Deputy Speaker is the Chairman. Not because you have giving in to the Honourable Member on the other side but for the respect of the Chair you sit on today and for the integrity of this House we are not going to accept people using words against the Speaker all the time. The last time they said you are a liar we have it on records. So, Mr Speaker, today I am going to move a Motion that the Ethics Committee [Interruption].

THE SPEAKER: I want you to be patient.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, it is for the integrity of the House and the integrity of the Chair.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Yes, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I take special note of your concern and in this particular instance I dear say your concern is equally mine but I am a very patient person. The only warning I am giving and I will give it again. There will come a time when my patience will run out and when we reach that stage some people might live to regret it. I understand where you are coming from Honourable Nyuma. You are trying to defend my position and I thank you for it and let it be understood again that sooner rather than later my patience might run out and when it does those who are found culpable will live to regret their actions. Let me just live it at that for the time being. Honourable Leader of Government Business, shall we proceed?

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker Point of Order. Mr Speaker, can you please listen to me? I have a Point of Order.

THE SPEAKER: What is your Point of Order?

HON: LAHAI MARAH: I stand on S.O 25 and 71 Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker S.O 25[1] with your leave Mr Speaker let me read.

THE SPEAKER: What Order?

HON. LAHAI MARAH: S. O 25[1]

THE SPEAKER: Yes read.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: “Unless these Orders otherwise direct, notice shall be given of any motion or amendment which it is proposed to move with the exception of the Following.” We have exceptions Mr Speaker. Amending the Order Paper in the Well you have to give a notice. Mr Speaker, this is a normal habit of the Leader of Government Business [*Undertone*]. usually, whenever they receive information which they deem fit should appear on the Order Paper even though, that information is not on the Order Paper as an item, it is the very day during Sittings they would amend the Order Paper to fit in the said information and it is not correct. It is also against the law [*Applause*]. Mr Speaker, on that very day the Select Committees were announced, the announcement of the Select Committees was not stated as an item on the Order Paper. Mr Speaker, if you go to the Standing Order that deals with the Business Committee, one of the roles of a Leader of Government Business is to inform us Honourable Members on a Thursday like this about items that will be appearing on the Order Paper. That is because we do not want any item to be tampered with.

THE SPEAKER: If I could recalled, you were not even in the House.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: I was and I moved a Motion on that day.

THE SPEAKER: You were not.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: I moved a Counter Motion on that day.

THE SPEAKER: You were not.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Here we are again Mr Speaker amending this Order Paper.

THE SPEAKER: You came very late; you walked in here very lackadaisically.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, I was here, I moved a Motion.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, take your seat please. Let us proceed.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, just allow me please to end. It is and Order, you cannot just rule out an Order like this. It is important.

THE SPEAKER: I am ruling you out of Order; take your seat Honourable Lahai Marrah. Go ahead Mr Leader of Government Business.

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

PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. VERONICA K. SESAY

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that the Fourth Report of the Second Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, conscious of its constitutional responsibility of vetting Presidential Nominees to select the most suitable and qualified persons to serve in public offices, met on Tuesday 25th June, 2019 and interviewed four Presidential Nominees for the following appointments:

[i] Minister of Local Government and Rural Development.

[ii] Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Electricity Generation and Transmission Company.

[iii] Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA].

[iv] Member, Board of Directors, Road Maintenance Fund Administration.

2. Procedure

The Committee conducted the hearing within the ambit of its established criteria. Members perused the specified documents provided by the nominees, requested for public input into the vetting process to ascertain the suitability of the nominees for their

proposed appointments and ensured that the nominees were cleared of any criminal records by the Criminal Investigation Department [CID] Members also assured themselves that the nominees have the relevant qualifications and necessary backup experience to man such important offices of state. Probing questions put to the nominees covered wide ranging issues pertaining to their track records in other pertinent work situations, their declared assets and liabilities, fulfilment of their tax obligations to the state and their visions for a successful and nationally productive tenure.

3. Fifth Sitting of the Committee on Tuesday, 25th June, 2019

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

i. His Excellency Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina, Proposed Minister, Local Government and Rural Development;

Mr Lamina is currently the Sierra Leone High Commissioner to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Responding to the Committee's inquiries, His Excellency Lamina said: **"I intend to provide genuine, honest and reliable leadership to facilitate the effective functioning of the Ministry to deliver on its mandates, in doing that"**, he went on, **"I would be mindful of pending and on-going issues and issues relating to devolve functions to local governance. It is about time that we devolve and support the Local Government structures to be efficient and effective at the local level."**

Answering to further questions, H.E Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina said that dealing with the Paramount Chiefs is like forming relationships, ensuring that they are respected, and further ensure that they have clarity about where government stands on issues of governance. **"It is my belief that once a relationship has been established and people know exactly where you stand, there is every possibility that you will work together for service delivering."**

ii. Mr Brima Sowa - Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Electricity Generation and Transmission Company [EGTC].

Mr Brima Sowa attained the position of a Permanent Secretary in 2015 and was posted to serve in that capacity in the Ministry of Information and Communication and the Ministry of Mines and Minerals. He was the Acting Director General, National Minerals Agency from November 2018 to January 2019. He has an impressive mix of knowledge, management skills of over twenty years including ten years at senior management level.

Reacting to probing questions, Mr Brima Sowa said that he has always known energy to be a key sector in the growth and development of any country. Sierra Leone, he said, has suffered a lot from poor generation even before this period. **'If I am approved as a Board Member, I will do my best to inject new ideas. A close look at the Acts [EDSA and EGTC] would clearly unveil series of outstanding problems in terms of roles and overlap of responsibilities that need to be amended. Secondly, the establishing Act had made the institution autonomous but it is not autonomous. As a Board, we really need a meeting with the Honourable Minister of Energy and the Financial Secretary to allow EGTC operate autonomously as provided in the relevant Act. We are not fully in charge and that is one area we have already started discussion.'**

Reacting to further prompts, Mr Sowa said, **"We have a unique Board in the sense that we are all in touch with one another. The Chairman is a very open person and would ensure to seek the concurrence of members before a meeting is called. I believe the Energy Sector is very key for our development. So I want to assure you that I can make myself available in Board meetings."**

iii. Pastor Janneh-Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA]

Pastor Janneh is the founder and General Overseer of the Family in Christ Prayer Tower and School Deliverance. He had once served as Finance Assistant, University of Sierra Leone, Fourah Bay College.

Reacting to the prompts about Board Members, Pastor Janneh said, **"I will imprint on their minds, the fear of the Lord that in all we do, we must be very honest; work diligently for the progress of the Board and for the good of the Nation."**

Answering to the Committee's inquiries, Pastor Janneh said, **"If I obtain the blessings of approval from the Honourable House of Parliament, I will ensure that I add value to the institution: I promise to always work effectively and efficiently in the discharge of my duties as a Board Member. I will always make myself available for Board meetings and together with other members we will ensure that effective safety measures like traffic and road signs put in place. As a Board, we will try to achieve those objectives for which the SLRSA was established by working according to the Provisions of the Act."**

iv. Mr Raymond Koroma- Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Road Maintenance Fund Administration

Mr Raymond Koroma is currently member of the Finance Committee at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sierra Leone [ICASL]. He has an impressive mix of knowledge in the financial world.

Responding to Member's inquiries, Mr Raymond Koroma said; **"As a Board Member, I am going to serve in the Corporate Governance Structure of the entity. My contribution would be in line with ensuring that structures are in place for the entity to continue growing in the foreseeable future. Lack of Corporate Governance in any organization is a recipe for its collapse. So as Board of Directors we have that responsibility to ensure that policies, systems, controls and processes are in place to make the organization work in the foreseeable future."**

Answering to further questions, Mr Koroma said, **“I am going to work with the team of fellow Board Members. I will assure the House that I will go by the law as provided in the Act and will prevail on fellow Board Members to do the same.”**

4. 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. Mr Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina - Minister of Local Government & Rural Development*
- ii. Mr Brima Munda Sowa - Member Board of Directors, Electricity Generation and Transmission Company*
- iii. Pastor Mustapha Lamin Janneh - Member Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority [SLRSA]*
- iv. Mr Raymond Koroma - Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Road Maintenance Fund Administration*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Fourth Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee I therefore move that the Fourth Report of the Second 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: Any Seconder?

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: I so second Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed]

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here again to thank His Excellency the President for

giving us these fine nominees who are all well-grounded and well qualified for the various positions they are been nominated for. I was part of the Appointments Committee, we scrutinised them and by giving us their answers we took them by their words because when answering questions, the way you answer and the way you present yourself can clearly show that you are well equipped to perform the functions for which you are been nominated. I know we are all here on oath and I believe before they too stood before us for them to be interviewed they also took oaths. So, therefore, I believe they are qualified and they are going to do justice to what they are been nominated to do.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the proposed Minister Mr Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina who is going if approved to be the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development. Mr Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina, there are problems in that Ministry especially in the Local Councils. You have a lot to do and when you go there, owing to the fact that you have the international expertise, please ensure to combine both the international expertise and that of the local ideas as you are coming back home to deal with the grass root people. I know you will do justice to your functions in that Ministry because during your interview somebody commended you for the conference you held in London and I hope you will do the same here. You will have to face so many problems and challenges but with your expertise I know you will overcome them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are also problems about our Chiefs, so I hope Mr Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina will look into that. In as much as we are trying to bring about the Affirmative Action Plan which will go a very long way in addressing the issue on the restriction of women who want to become Paramount Chiefs in the North, I know you will complement that effort. If we have the Affirmative Action Plan here for women who have rights that should be freely exercised, I believe that will resolve that issue. I have no doubt at all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina, you see what was going on here this afternoon. This is how Parliament should be, we disagree to agree

and that is why we are here. We have to do justice, we have to tell you what you are being sent here for and I am sure you heard us. I think that should serve as guide to you. I want to refer you to Section 93[3] of the 1991 Constitution which talks about the Oversight roles of Parliamentary Committees. The Committee that is charged with the responsibility of giving Oversight to the Local Government Ministry will probe into your Ministry; they will ask questions and collect messages or any information for them to be laid here as you have seen other documents that have been laid on the Table of this House. So, you have to be ready for that as you are going to the Ministry. Sometimes when it is noticed that Parliament is paying Oversight visits to Government Ministries people tend to be jittery but Parliament should be seen working in close collaboration with Government Ministries in ensuring that this Government succeeds. Therefore, when you go there you have to be ready and ensure that you abreast yourself with Section 93[3] of the 1991 Constitution which gives us the mandate. Our mandates are: Representation, Oversight and Law-making. As a result of the laws we make, that is the more reason why you hear us shouting here. We are all brothers and sisters, when we go out on our Oversight function we 'rub skin' and we speak with one voice but when we are here we can talk because we have immunity, we have all rights to say whatever we want to say but when we go out there we are friends. Our brothers on the other side are bound to speak because they have their own political parties to defend and to defend themselves as well because they are afraid of Section 77[k].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the others who are going to the various institutions, there are Board Members and you have Board Chairmen and you should work with the Chairmen. I am asking that you work as a team. It is true that you may have your individual excellent expertise or qualifications but you do not have to say because you are more qualified than the Board Chairman or you have more Degrees than the Board Chairman therefore, you cannot work together. You have to make sure you work in collaboration; you work as a team, with that you can succeed. With that, I do not want to bother you much. I want to say to my colleagues, the day is long spent

here, I know we are all tired and hungry; I want you to please join me in the approval of these people. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Lady for her contribution. I want to recognise the Honourable Festus Lansana.

HON. FESTUS M. LANSANA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to His Excellency the President for giving us these fine nominees. I do not know them much but looking at their Resume, I realised that they are reputable nominees who are capable to perform in their various appointments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the proposed Minister of Local Government and Rural Development in particular. There was an impasse between the Ministry and the Local Government Service Commission and that impasse is yet to be settled. As Chairman of the Transparency and Accountability Committee, we investigated that matter and certain observations were made which I want to bring to the attention of Mr Speaker. We observed that both the Ministry and the Commission had disagreement over the appointment and recruitment responsibility but looking at the Act and the Human Resource Management Committee, Section 35-42 of the Local Government Act is clear on that. I do not want to go into details. Therefore, I really want you, no sooner you go, to sit and try to resolve the said impasse.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we also observed that there were some people who were on suspension and that suspension has been lifted and they have been receiving salaries all this time. Therefore, they are supposed to resume work. Currently the devolved functions have been giving out but nothing is going on in the Councils because the officials are not sure of their locations. Therefore, I really want you to address that issue as fast as you can. On that note, I do not want to labour the point but I want to ask that our colleagues on the other side join us to speedily approve these nominees. Thank you.

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

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am really very much happy today to be given the opportunity to speak on behalf of two nominees whom I know very well. I will start with His Excellency Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina. About eight months ago, that gentle man was before us here but I missed him. I have not seen him for thirty years. His Excellency Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina was my senior at the Bo School. He was one of those senior boys we respected. I am very much happy to inform this House that His Excellency Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina is a very good nominee, I am sure if we have people of his calibre in this country holding positions of trust this country will move forward. I am saying this from the bottom of my heart, I am not praise singing, I want to give opportunities to those who do not know His Excellency Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina to know that he is a very good nominee and I want to wish him well but before coming to the end of my presentation on him I would want to make reference to a statement made by His Excellency Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina during the interview. Please Honourable Member allow me [*Undertone*]. His Excellency Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina said, he will form a relationship with Paramount Chiefs, he also said that he will ensure that Paramount Chiefs are respected. I want to say this is very good Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I was here during a period between 2007 to 2012 Debate, I appealed to the Government then to provide better living conditions for Paramount Chiefs. The works of a Paramount Chief is on a twenty-four hours basis. I understand that some Paramount Chiefs are well to do but I know of Paramount Chiefs who are living very miserable lives, who are living in very difficult conditions. I personally believe that the Government should give Paramount Chiefs a living salary, they should be paid and they should be provided transportation which should be changed after every five years. This is very much important because if they are Paramount Chiefs they should be respected, they should be seen living very comfortable lives and they should be in a position to help their subjects when they are in need but

this is not the case. The allowances they receive I understand is less than **Le3mln**, I do not know the exact figure. When you say we would ensure that the Paramount Chiefs are respected I think one way you can do that is to ensure that they are given salaries which befit their status as Paramount Chiefs and they should be able to move freely in dignity. I know of Paramount Chiefs who do not have vehicles, who moves on motorbikes sometimes it is very dangerous for them. That is the way we should respect them. Respecting them also mean we should not use them and dump them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know of Chiefdoms whenever there is a regime change they will paint their courtyards red if it is APC that is in power or green if it is SLPP that is in power and sometimes when subjects cry foul, when they write petition to the ruling Government the ruling Government do not listen to those subjects. This increases tension in those Chiefdoms. It is my belief that Paramount Chiefs should support the Government of the day but they should also respect their subjects. They should respect minority groups. If a Government is seen supporting Paramount Chiefs for doing the wrong things this will help raise tension in those Chiefdoms. My Chiefdom has suffered a lot from that. So, I am sure I am telling my 'Kotor' that in forming a good relationship with the Paramount Chiefs it should be ensured that democratic principles are respected, that the rights of the minority are respected, that they rule well and that they put the interest of their people first. We do not want a situation wherein the ruling Government will use the Paramount Chiefs and transform them into politicians, a situation where you have Paramount Chiefs putting on party colours and even forcing their subjects to put on party colours like it happened before. So, one way we can make this country great is to ensure that rights of the minority are respected and Paramount Chiefs are respected. Whiles Paramount Chiefs support the Government of the day they should also be seen serving everybody regardless of party colours. That is my advice. It has not been good for those Paramount Chiefs who have been taken sides; they have always suffered the dire consequences. The best way is to support the Government of the day, support minority rights and serve the people. That is my advice my 'Kortor'. Any move from that, in an attempt to use the Paramount Chiefs to support

you because you are in power will be counterproductive and that will not be good for this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to come to another nominee who happened to be my constituent, no less a person but Chief Brima Munda Sowa. Chief Brima Munda Sowa is from Pujehun District and I am representing Pujehun District here. I have met with him severally in Pujehun meetings, he is somebody who has very good character and he is somebody who interacts very well. He said something in the interview which is; **"I will inject new ideas."** What we need in this country are people who have new ideas. It should not be business as usual. If we are going to move in a New Direction we should be seen moving from those things in the past that have kept us behind. We want people like Mr Brima Munda Sowa who has promised to bring new ideas which will ensure that we live better lives.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members I will comment on another nominee. He is going as Board Member of the Sierra Leone Roads Safety Authority. I am happy that another young person in the name of Mr Raymond Koroma is going to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Road Maintenance Fund Administration and there is a connection between the functions of the Sierra Leone Roads Safety Authority and that of the Road Maintenance Fund Administration. If you ply the highway you see potholes, sometimes those potholes are very small and they become larger after every raining season. When I became Member of Parliament in 2007, I was a Member of the team which visited Cape Verde. In Cape Verde, there is a Road Maintenance Team which works across the country. Every day you see them, they go to work at 8:30 a.m. and they leave their work places at about 4:30p.m. That team would continuously work on the roads. They would mend potholes and decorate the streets. It is not good to have potholes and as a result of neglect the potholes grow very large to an extent that they render the roads impassable. A maintenance which could have cost a sum amount of about **Le1mln** but due to neglect we might end up spending a sum amount of about **Le50mln** just because you have neglected your responsibility. If there is road maintenance fund it should be used for road maintenance. Therefore, I am suggesting

that the two institutions should think of forming a Road Maintenance Team which should be involved in road maintenance.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I was a child growing up in Pujehun, there was this Public Works Department [PWD]. We had men who were permanently stationed on the roads, you see them mending damages on the roads but they are no more. Sometimes after every raining season Government will spend Millions of Leones awarding contracts to people, sometimes to political party members to undertake road work but if only we can have people that are stationed on the roads this will provide jobs and it will make it less expensive on Government for road maintenance. So, I want to see a team of young men and women working on the roads, repairing the roads across the country. If you try that you will find out that you are going to save more money in ten years than allowing the conditions to deteriorate and then you award the contract to people or companies with huge expenses to mend those roads. That is my suggestion.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with that, I want to assure this House that the two people I know very well; His Excellency Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina and Chief Brima Munda Sowa are people who are very good nominees. I think President Bio need people like them to help rule this country. I was interested in the New Direction as somebody who has grown up, I was born in the late 60s and I have lived through very tough times in this country. Regardless of our tribes and connections, regardless of our party affiliations, we are all sufferers. We either prosper together or we suffer together. If you go to the market there are no special prices for APC Members, there are no special prices for SLPP Members, there are no special prices for Independent Candidate Members. So, our business is to support the Government of the day in all the development efforts so that our country can move forward because if the Government fails we all fail and when there is suffering it will not be selective it will be for everybody.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to comment on the nominee who will be going as Board Member of the Electricity Generation and Transmission Company. Mr

Speaker, now electricity supply seems to be a privilege for a few. I remember when I wanted to have some electricity connections for my house in Bo, I spent over **Le5mln**.

THE SPEAKER: How relevant is that point to what we are discussing?

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: It is relevant Mr Speaker because we are approving somebody who will be serving as a member on the Board of Directors of the Electricity Generation and Transmission Company. It is very important that Sierra Leoneans have access to electricity. Presently the cost of electricity connection is so high that most Sierra Leoneans cannot afford to connect their houses. When I was in Bo, I wanted electricity connection to my home I spent over **Le5mln**. I do not see any reason why the institution responsible for generating electricity cannot make it easier for people to access electricity when people are paying light bills. People are paying for meters but when they pay for meters they have to wait sometimes for two years, sometimes they have to pay special cost for them to have access to those meters. Those are the changes we want to see. If you can reduce the duration for which meters can be accessed after they have been paid for, if you can ensure poor people are afforded electricity connection, I think the supply of electricity will be sustainable. If you charge the sum of **Le2mln** or **Le3mln** for electricity connection on people who earn less than **Le600th** they will never access electricity. Therefore, you should have a special programme for those poor neighbourhoods and that should reduce the competition to access meters or else most Sierra Leoneans will never access electricity.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we also want you to explore Solar light generation. There are improved varieties that could be used in homes especially by poor families. I want to end by also adding this. Power should not only be the business for the cities and the towns. Most Sierra Leoneans who vote to bring in Governments stay in the rural areas and most of the monies we use for development are paid by Sierra Leoneans who lived in the rural areas. Therefore, whiles you are planning for cities, you should also plan for a cheaper source of power for the villages. This is very important because the villagers are in the majority and they make the bulk of the voters. They should enjoy every facility that is provided for the city dwellers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with that, I want to urge this House to approve the nominees including the two I know very well. I want to believe that the other nominees are also capable. Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Thank you all for listening to me.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. I will recognise the following speakers in the following order; Honourable Emerson followed by Honourable Lahai Marah, Honourable Silikie, Honourable Mario of the National Grand Coalition and I will end up with Honourable Kemokai in that order please.

HON. EMMERSON S. LAMINA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in concurrence and in line with Section 61 of Sierra Leone's 1991 Constitution Act No.6, I want to thank His Excellency the President for nominating technocrats, a man of God and a seasoned Permanent Secretary to give out what they have learned over the past many years to this nation. Seen faces of such people to boost the socio-economic life of Sierra Leoneans count a lot.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have no doubts in these nominees that they will make Sierra Leone proud in their various places of work. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the appointment of His Excellency Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina to serve in the capacity as a Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development is not a mistake at all by His Excellency Brigadier Julius Maada Bio the President of Sierra Leone but rather it is a balanced, a brilliant and a bold step in the right direction. Bringing a plenipotentiary to execute serious State functions at this time will show that His Excellency Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina is a symbolic icon in steering human qualities. Without prejudice to the brotherhood at the same time conscious of Parliamentary prayers, I am giving a candid opinion about this nominee. Him coming from a Chieftaincy, he has a lot of experience to bring into the Ministry of Local Government.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, that notwithstanding, a few things I would like Mr Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina to take note of, with my nine years of experience in the Local Government both as an Administrator and at the same time as a Politician, there are few things I have discovered that he will be grappling with which are; the Fiscal,

Personnel and the Asset in the Local Government. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it cannot be gain said that promoting staff without recourse to guidelines in the Ministry of Local Government has become so repetition like a Parrot scribe which he has to take note of. Further challenges that he will have to overcome are; the incompleteness of the devolution process, ineffective PETRA system that has not been given better account to the funds received and distributed by MDAs, late disbursement and poor enforcement of law against defaulters to boost their own source revenue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it would surprise us all that we have private and government houses that do not pay property tax to the Local Councils which should be a big boost to support our various Local Councils. The issue of these years of bad debts kept on occurring. Also, there are conflicting regulations which is very important and he has to take note. In the Local Government Act of 2004, specifically Section 69 to 72 is very clear as it emphasises the payment of property tax but mining Agreements give mining companies tax holidays rendering them free from paying taxes. We still see conflict between and among Agreements of mining companies, the Mines and Minerals Act of 2009 and the Local Government Act of 2004. Therefore, the best he can do at the moment is to think of reviewing the Local Government Act.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is also the issue of lack of gratuities and pensions to Local Government Officials. They would work without gratuity and pension, it is no secret. If core staff of a Local Council die today, that is the end. If a Mayor or Councillor dies today, that is the end. There is no regulation, no procedure on how to pay benefits to those staff. Also, learning from His Excellency's Second Session Speech to this House which states that, it is high time the Central Government and the Local Government staff to come on board and work together for the peace and cohesiveness of our society. It would work and if that is to work, the new Local Government Minister has a key role to play and for the peace and cohesiveness of our society, the Paramount Chief Members from the various Chiefdoms also have a role to play. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I call upon you all to give credence to the swift ratification of these fine nominees before us. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

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

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have people before us who are highly qualified. We do not have any problem with them with regards to their qualifications. I have just looked at the Report here on 2.1 which states, the following Members of the Committee were present. Mr Speaker, you will realise that **99%** of those Members were from one political party which is the SLPP. Mr Speaker, it is very important we start taking these issues into consideration. It is like this Parliament is moving towards a one party Parliament.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Can you please allow me?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I am talking to the Speaker. Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Mr Speaker, Committees are Sub Parliaments. When we go to Committee meetings we look for quorum and if there is a quorum we do not look for individual political parties. We go there to get a quorum after which we move ahead with the business of the day. So, to say because your political party decided to boycott a meeting for that we could not have held the meeting, it is unacceptable Mr Speaker. We always ensure we have a quorum that is all we do. If you check the list, there was a quorum for that particular meeting. To say we are going towards a one party Parliament, it means he is bastardising Democracy. We are operating a multi system of Democracy here. The Independent Members were represented to be part of the process; Honourable Emerson was present as the Leader of C4C and NGC was present. Yet still you are telling us that we are in a one party system. It was your responsibility to attend the Committee meeting but you boycotted [*Undertone*]. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Can you allow me?

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker, Committee is part of Parliamentary work. So, to say Committee is not Parliament I disagree with my colleague over there.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I said Committees are Sub Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: What was the quorum?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, it was a quorum of five.

THE SPEAKER: Carry on.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Thank You Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, it is rather unfortunate such is coming from the Deputy Leader of Government Business on that side. Mr Speaker, it is very much important that such issues are highly considered. They are very important. This is Sierra Leone and this is Parliament, Parliament generally you have the Opposition and you have the Ruling Government Bench. Mr Speaker, on this side of the House, we are the Majority in Opposition. If we are not part of any business in this House Mr Speaker, you should be worried.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, let me make a point clear. In fact, on that day, the Leader of Government Business sent me to go and call Honourable I. B. Kargbo. I went to his office and he told me that he was coming to the Appointments Committee meeting. I went to call him and the Acting Leader of the NGC. Mr Speaker, what happens sometimes, they deliberately refuse to come to those meetings and at the end of the day they will stand in the Well and say we were not represented just like they are doing now. I went to the Office of the Acting Leader of the Opposition, I invited him and he promised to come but at the end of the day he did not come. This is exactly what they are doing. When they do not attend those Committee meetings, they would come back and say we were not notified or present. The fact of the matter is that I went to his office, I invited him and he promised to come later he sent to the Leader of Government Business to say **"I am not coming; my party said I should not attend."**

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: How many times have we refused to attend?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: That is not my question.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: But that is the issue.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: The Member of Parliament on the other side is misrepresenting me. It is not true that he went to my office to ask me to attend a meeting and that besides, taking into consideration his status, I do not think he is the kind of man who should be running errands to invite people to meetings.

HON. DIKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, a point of correction, I was not running errands. I am the Chief Whip; it is my responsibility to make sure every Member attend Committee meetings. It is an insult to me for him to tell me I was running errands. I think he should withdraw that statement. It is the same way he is an errand boy to Honourable Chernor Bah.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Well, it does not matter. Mr Speaker, I am repeating the statement that, I am been misrepresented. I know that a meeting was convened but at the time, I had no opportunity to attend that meeting. I am not going to go into the details but like I said, he did come to my Office and I find it difficult to understand when the Member of Parliament is insisting that he went to my office to invite me to a meeting because I do not see him as an errand boy. Again, I want it to be said and to be noted Mr Speaker that when meetings are convened they should be convened properly. That is the most I can say. Thank you very much.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. I am standing on S.O 7. Mr Speaker, I have just heard my colleague, the Honourable Member from Constituency 42. He made a very salient point that as Members of the Opposition[s] they should be informed and if they are not included in Sittings of Committees and by extension the proceedings of the House according to him, invalidate the process but that is not what the Constitution is saying and that is not what the Standing Orders is saying. The Constitution says in Section 89 that a quorum is one-fourth, it does not say by political party. If a quorum is one-fourth, whosoever is present forms part of the quorum *[Applause]*? So, for the avoidance of doubt and for clarity, let it be known that the Standing Orders and the Constitution do not say what a quorum should constitute by political parties.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, this is just an addendum. I am a Member of that Committee, I am the Deputy Chairman. I have a text message from the Clerk; if you do not mind I will read to prove that we were summoned to the Committee meeting on the 25th June 2019. **“Honourable Member, you are summoned to the Fifth Sitting of the Appointments Committee in Committee Room No.1 Parliament Building on Tuesday 25th June, 2019 at 10:30a.m. to interview some Presidential Nominees for Public Appointments. Relevant Documents are in your Pigeon Holes. Please acknowledge receipt.”** Mr Speaker, this is clear, it was a sent message in my phone from the Clerk. So, we were not going to wait for you to attend or not. Our business is to have a quorum. I rest my case. Mr Speaker, let us continue Sir.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: A mobile phone is not a parliamentary document *[Laughter]*.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: That is being disingenuous.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Honourable Gevao, you have to accord respect to whom respect is due. No, please. Next time you do that some of us are going to give you some jargons.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: I am going to ignore him. Mr Speaker, Honourable Nyuma was making a point about attendance and meetings. I want to remind him that if any group has attended Parliamentary meetings here and if you take the frequency with which our side has attended meetings and if we work out that mathematics of it all, I can easily say that the APC has attended more meetings than other parties. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I do not know whether this will help you Honourable Lahai Marrah. I just want to draw the attention of Honourable Lahai Marrah and Honourable Conteh also known as Tawa. Honourable Tawa, you made reference to S.O 7 that refers to the quorum of the House but there is another provision S.O 73[4] which is relevant to this

particular issue. Unlike the quorum for the House which is one-fourth, the quorum for a Select Committee is one-third. You may proceed.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, my position here is not about quorum. I do believe you want to see a peaceful coexistence amongst Members of Parliament [*Applause*] and Mr Speaker, I know you would not want to see a Parliament that is very rancorous, you would rather want to see a very peaceful Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: I am striving for that as you know.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: And so Mr Speaker, when you see Committees been constituted without Members or excluding Members of a particular political party you should be worried. Mr Speaker, that is telling you there is no unity in this House which you govern and under your watch. These are documents that we have to leave for records and whenever it happens, when one search for them your name would definitely come up as a Speaker at that time. I know you do not want to see this happening but you have a second force.

THE SPEAKER: The ideal situation is to have a united House. I agree with you. Although, I hope we are not talking about a one party system.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, One Party Parliament is what this Parliament is moving to.

THE SPEAKER: But for unity, we have to go by the Standing Orders.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, in the formation of Committees, S.O 71 on Select Committees was not properly followed.

THE SPEAKER: I always like giving you the Floor Honourable Lahai Marrah but what I do not like about you is you are always dragging us backwards.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: I am not dragging us backwards Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You are.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: I am debating on the present happenings, that is what I am doing. Mr Speaker, S.O 72 is an entrenched provision in the Standing Orders which you

as the Speaker has no power to violate. It is talking about the strength of political parties in the formation of Committees.

THE SPEAKER: You are dragging us back. I will invite you again as I did earlier to S.O 32[7]. You are dragging us back.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, I have the opportunity to make reference to what has occurred which led to this particular Report. I am saying, among the Members of the Appointments Committee who interviewed the nominees, APC Members were not among.

THE SPEAKER: How many Members constitute the Appointments Committee?

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, the list that I have here, **99%** of the Members who interviewed the nominees were SLPP Members.

THE SPEAKER: How many Members constitute the Appointments Committee Honourable Member?

HON. LAHAI MARAH: I think it should be sixteen.

THE SPEAKER: Fine. What is One Third of 16?

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker that is not my point.

THE SPEAKER: But it is the point that is in the Standing Orders.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, my point here is, what is happening now is unprecedented and it is happening under your watch.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Lahai Marrah, let me pose a question to you. If you were a Member of the Appointments Committee and you decide on your own not to attend a meeting of that Committee, would you hold me responsible or accountable for your absence? This is because you keep asking this quotation of '*under my watch*'. Yes, under my watch but under my watch, I am guided by both the Constitution and the Standing Orders.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, that is what I am saying but you have not been strictly following, underline that statement 'strictly following' the Constitution and the Standing Orders.

THE SPEAKER: That is your opinion. We have gone over this matter and you are coming back to it. That is why I keep referring you to S.O 32[7]

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, I do not want to talk for my Leader.

THE SPEAKER: Can we get some progress on this matter?

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, I will be voting against these nominees not because of their personalities, as I said they are qualified but the procedure adopted to interview them was absolutely wrong [*Applause*] and Mr Speaker, if you do not amend this today you will continue seeing this happening.

THE SPEAKER: So guide me, what amendment are you seeking?

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, we have to go back to the Special Select Committees. We have to go back and correct the mistakes been done earlier. Mr Speaker, we have been very supportive during the previous Session especially with regards to the approval of Presidential Nominees. We have been highly supportive but as long as these Committees we have now that are been constituted will have to be interviewing nominees and all other Select Committees that will be coming to this Well Mr Speaker, I am not talking for the leadership but for myself, you will not have my support [*Applause*].

THE SPEAKER: Can you wind up your contribution please.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Thank you Honourable Sidie Tunis for telling the Speaker. [Interruption]

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

THE SPEAKER: What is your Point of Order?

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: My Point of Order still stands on S.O 7. I am standing to clarify the issue of quorum that it does not constitute or require by either the Standing

Order stated in S.O 7 in tandem with Section 89 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No.6 of 1991. Mr Speaker, this is because as the Honourable Lahai Marrah is making these points that are not in agreement with the Constitution and the Standing Orders, when the Radio Stations and the Newspapers go out there they would not carry the true picture of what transpired in Parliament and what is required by the Constitution especially for the Society for Radio Democracy, 98.1 FM.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, they would go and carry the misinformation from the Opposition and Mr Speaker, it has been a trend hence the reason why the Honourable Lahai Marrah is playing to the Gallery. This is because the Radio Stations or News Papers would go and disseminate this misinformation and the public would understand it as if the constitution of Committees or for a Committee to sit, one-third requires Members from various political parties. Let it be cleared and let it be stated that the requirement of one-third does not require a political party or does not seek that every political party should be included. Therefore, when they go out there to report tomorrow morning, they will not carry the information of the Honourable Lahai Marrah as if it is sacrosanct and is in agreement with the Standing Orders and the Constitution.

THE SPEAKER: I think your point is well taken. Hold on. That point is well taken and again, I would like to underscore the point that the relevant Standing Order is S.O 73[4] and I will read it for the benefit of all Members: **“Unless the House otherwise direct or as specially provided in these Orders, one-third of the Membership shall be the quorum. In ascertaining whether there is quorum present the Member in the Chair shall not be excluded”** and the Membership referred to here is the Membership of Select Committees of the House and the Appointments Committee is one such Select Committees.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, you are right, you are perfectly right Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: No. I think the point he is making [Interruption]

HON. LAHAI MARRAH: Well, the Honourable Member is perfectly correct but again Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: We do not want the Media to misinform the public.

HON. LAHAI MARRAH: Mr Speaker, what is wrong?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, the Standing Order says you should be heard in silence. When you are speaking no Honourable Member should interrupt you. I think we should take that into consideration.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I hope you are not going to say I am corrupt again?

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: No, I have never said so and I will not.

THE SPEAKER: You did.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: No, I did not.

THE SPEAKER: You did.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: I did not.

THE SPEAKER: And I ruled you out of order just now and with a warning.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: No, I did not say so.

THE SPEAKER: You are the youngest Member in this House but the most troublesome.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Not really, I am not.

THE SPEAKER: Carry on Honourable Lahai Marrah.

HON. LAHAI MARRAH: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I am not against the quorum. In fact, you are right and that is the more reason why we want these books, the Constitution and the Standing Orders to be respected but S.O 72[1] of the Standing Orders and Section 93[5] of the Constitution are highly violated by you. Yes, they are Mr Speaker and because we keep on violating laws especially in this Parliament
[Interruption].

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I think this is a very serious indictment. For an Honourable Member to say you violated the Constitution, I think he needs to clarify that Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: He is exercising his freedom. I know I have not violated any constitutional provision. So, as far as I am concern that opinion is totally irrelevant.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, S.O 72[1].

THE SPEAKER: I give you one minute.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Thank you Mr Speaker. Without interruption please. S.O 72[1] talks about Committees to be reflective of the strength of political parties.

THE SPEAKER: I am perfectly aware of that provision.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Thank you very much. Again, S.O 71 says Committees should be distributed based on the order of the House. Mr Speaker, S.O 71 of the Standing Orders talk about Order of the House, you can read it. Mr Speaker, all those were violated by this House. Mr Speaker, when the laws favour you, you will read Standing Orders aloud like what you have just done but when they are against you, you ignore *[Applause]*. Also Mr Speaker, you have been making rulings since the start of this Committee process. We questioned S.O 70[1] on the Selection Committee; we questioned it here that it was not properly constituted because the Business Committee was not announced on that day. The whole thing started from that point.

THE SPEAKER: You have almost exhausted your one minute.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, yes because they were interrupting me. Also, Mr Speaker, you have forgotten that whenever you put Questions in this House you do not call for Counter Motions. That has happened from the start of this Committee Process up to this stage. Mr Speaker, today, I am not talking for the Leadership but for myself, I am going to vote against these nominees *[Applause]*. Mr Speaker, I want experienced people like His Excellency Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina to be in the Local Government Ministry. You know why? This is because there are violations. Hold on I am questioning

the process, I am not questioning their integrity, understand me well [*Undertone*]. Mr Speaker, you know why? Because we keep on violating the rules in this House, there are violations even outside, all over.

THE SPEAKER: Your time is up.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Well let me conclude Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: No, your time is up.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Thank you. I have made my point.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Silikie, you have the Floor.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to begin by thanking His Excellency the President for presenting to us these nominees for approval by this Parliament for various positions. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, week in week out, when I Debate in this Well I remind my brothers the reason why they are on that side. We were on that side, when we were there I believe my colleague Honourable Lahai Marah from Krubola used to admire us when we were in Opposition. I can tell you here categorically that when we were in Opposition we were very objective, we were not causing problems for this Parliament, we were opposing the APC and we promised that they will go over to the Opposition side and that is where you are today. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if they continue like this they will not convince the voters of this Republic.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, my name has been mentioned. He mentioned my name, so I have the right to respond. Thank you Mr Speaker. No, he mentioned my name Mr Speaker. He called my name directly so allow me to respond.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, in as much as you are presiding over us, we are mindful of the integrity of this House. We are talking to you, we are pleading with you on this side for the sake of Sierra Leone and we want you to take control of this

House. I think the latitude you are operating has gone beyond the respect of the House as people are referring to you without citing the proper Standing Orders. In one moment they would say you are doing the wrong thing, in another moment they would attack you. We are not going to stand that Mr Speaker. We are asking you to please be in charge of this Chambers to maintain the dignity and respect of Parliament. We have allowed them to carry on like this for too long. You are giving them the opportunity to have their views and they have been doing that but they are obstructing. Therefore, we are asking you to have them cite the necessary Provisions. At any time we are about to give our contribution they interject with unnecessary points. So, we are talking to you to please be in charge Mr Speaker.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Point of Order Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: With the greatest respect to you on what Point?

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Point of Order Mr Speaker?

THE SPEAKER: No, please. Let me allow the Honourable Member *[Interruption]*.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Mr Speaker, I hope the Honourable Member on the other side is not attempting to incite the Speaker to be dictatorial?

THE SPEAKER: No, he will not succeed. So, I have answered you. Thank you.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: I hope he is not attempting to make you dictatorial.

THE SPEAKER: He is not going to succeed. I think I can say categorically and without any hesitation to all Members of Parliament, Honourable I. B Kargbo knows me more than anyone else and nobody will ever succeed, nobody in this House will ever succeed to incite me to the point of becoming a dictator. Carry on.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, when we were on that side, *[Interruption]* it is an advice, I am advising you *[Applause]*. If you continue with this attitude of yours you will not convince the voters of this Republic.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today we have four nominees presented to us by His Excellency the President. To the nominees, when you go to those offices, make sure

you deliver. You have a responsibility to deliver. The President trusts you so much, the President believes in you that is why he has selected you from among the lots who have suffered for him to be where he is today so that you can help him deliver what we promised during our campaigns. Please, please, when you go to those offices make sure you deliver. It has been said clearly that you are going to be voted against by Honourable Members on the other side. Therefore, you please deliver to shame them. We have a lot of confidence in you, please do not disappoint us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Members of Parliament in the various Parliamentary Committees that are responsible for these MDAs will be coming to those MDAs to ensure that they do their Oversight works. Please work with them. We have a mandate from the Constitution to provide Oversight to the various MDAs, you please work with them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me talk on the proposed Minister of Local Government and Rural Development. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development is a huge Ministry, very complex, very difficult and if this Government is going to succeed, the Ministry of Local Government has to play a pivotal role. You are going to deal with two pivotal institutions. The first one is the Paramount Chiefs and the second one is the Councils. If we are to restore the dignity and respect of Paramount Chiefs, the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development should make sure he looks into the conditions of service of the Paramount Chiefs *[Applause]*. The reason why most of these Paramount Chiefs are involving in politics is because some of them are looking for survival. If they are well catered for, I believe they can play the role they are been elected for. Please improve on their livelihoods, please make sure we restore their dignities and please make sure they become apolitical. These are institutions that are between the Government and the Local people. Make sure they are not politicised, make sure they are well taken care of and make sure the Paramount Chiefs do the work they are been elected for.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr proposed Minister; you have a herculean task with the councils. For your information 85% of the Members of Parliament that were

here are not here today. I can say most of the Members of Parliament who lost symbols are because of the councils. In this Parliament in 2004, we enacted the Local Government Act. The Local Government Act devolved the functions of development from this Parliament to the councils but today what is happening, because the councils are inept, they cannot perform their functions; they scapegoat the Members of Parliament. Because the Members of Parliament are not responsible for development but the councils, the councils scapegoated the Members of Parliament and they incite the constituents against us, at the end of the day it is us the Members of Parliament that are kicked out after five years on the simple premise that we do not bring development to the Constituencies. I am saying it here openly so that the Media can listen and report it that we Members of Parliament have no business in the development of Constituencies, it is not our responsibility. Members of Parliament are kicked out because of that and I am appealing to you Mr proposed Minister, make sure the councils live up to their expectations. When we do our Oversights; all of the Committees that deal with the councils find out that there are lots of leakages, lots of leakages in these councils. I personally have said, if I have the powers I will dissolve the councils and bring back the development of Constituencies to the Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with that, I will implore all of you to go and take your responsibilities. Make sure you deliver for the New Direction, make sure you deliver for his Excellency and make sure you deliver for us the Members of Parliament who have confidence in you and who will be voting for your approval. Thank you very much and may God bless you all.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. Honourable Mario, you have the Floor. After him you will be the last speaker before we wind up the debate.

HON. FODAY M. KAMARA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we in the NGC have always said we are a constructive Opposition. We are always objective, our interventions in this Parliament have never been to obstruct, they have always been concrete, we have always talked about things that are on the Floor.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we want to first of all thank His Excellency the President for presenting to us nominees who are presentable. When you give responsibility to somebody who merits it then you will be helping the society and this is exactly what the President is doing *[Applause]*. We are satisfied with the nominees who are in front of us here today *[Applause]*. We do not want to say these people are over qualified. In fact, let us stop saying 'over qualified'. There is no one who is over qualified for a job. If he/she is over qualified there is no need for him/her to go for a job. In fact, these people who are before us today, it is even possible that some of them have no idea of what they are going to do but it is quite clear that they will learn on the spot, they will learn as they go along especially if they want to work with the people they are going to meet there. These offices are not blank offices, they are not vacant, people have been there and other people have worked there they have worked as a team. If you are a team player then you will succeed. We have no doubts about these nominees; once again I say we are satisfied.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are only two points I have to make and those are directly to the proposed Minister of Local Government and Rural Development which will be in ten minutes. Mr Minister to be, you are inheriting a very important office; an office which has not satisfied me in the recent past in one aspect. That is, I did not see the Local Government Ministry linking Departments to make sure that there is peace and cohesion in the Chiefdoms. I did not see a link between Members of Parliament and the Paramount Chiefs or Regent Chiefs. Mr Minister to be, there is one point, the Local Government Act of 2009 states that a Regent Chief is appointed by the Local Government Minister in consultation with the Chiefdom Council. I did not see this happening in the past. I want you as a Minister to make sure that the Chiefdom Council is consulted in the appointment of Regent Chiefs. This will help the administration in the Chiefdoms, it will bring peace and it will bring cohesion. There must be people within the Chiefdoms who should be consulted and among these people is the Member of Parliament because the Member of Parliament is a Member of that Chiefdom Council.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my second point is, with the coming of the SLPP into governance, the Regent Chiefs who were in the various Chiefdoms were all sacked and new people were brought in. Mr Minister to be, the Local Government Act says the tenure of a Regent Chief is not more than twelve months. If you take a look at these Chiefs who were ushered in, you will find out that they are fast approaching the end of their tenures. To avoid having other Regent Chiefs appointed I would want to appeal that upon taking over office you ensure that the election of Paramount Chiefs is done as soon as possible *[Applause]*. That will help us and we will not have other Regent Chiefs replacing those that were ushered in illegally.

Mr Minister to be, I am saying this in the interest of the country. You please make sure that there is coordination between the Members of Parliament and the Chiefs which includes both the Regent and Paramount Chiefs and the District Officers so that there will be cohesion within our Constituencies. On that note, I want to appeal that these nominees are ratified as soon as possible to make sure they go to their offices and help the country to move forward. Thank you Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. I now call on the last speaker of the day before we wind up.

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to join my colleagues to extend my thanks to His Excellency the President for given us these fine nominees. I am going to start with Mr Brima Munda Sowa whom I have known for quite sometime. Mr Brima Munda Sowa is somebody I know very personally when it comes to delivering programmatic outcomes and outputs that gear towards changing the lives of our people. I have no doubt that taking over the responsibility of where he is going he will perform to the expectation of our people in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me move to the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development designate, awaiting approval. There are three issues I want to bring to the attention of the proposed Minister which I believe are very critical and should be given the consideration that they deserve. One of the issues I want to bring

to the attention of the Minister is that, across the country we have our Local Courts and we have our Local Court Chairmen across the country. My Constituency happens to be one of those that I am talking about. The Local Courts are supposed to have Chairmen who preside over minor cases within our Constituencies or Chiefdoms. I am bringing this to your notice that in my Constituency, I do not know for others but I do believe is the same for all, that all of those Local Courts Chairmen are currently acting and there is a disagreement between the Ministry of Justice and that of the Ministry of Local Government as to who is to recruit Local Court Chairmen. I want you to treat this very seriously because it deals with our people directly in those communities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the second issue I want to bring to your notice is the issue of owned source revenue. As per the Local Council's Act of 2004, it clearly specifies that the councils are the highest development agents in every district and by extension, they are responsible for raising revenue for our people within the district but in some chiefdoms or some Constituencies there are disagreements between the local administrators headed by Paramount Chiefs of the chiefdoms and the Local Councils wherein the Paramount Chiefs or Administrators within those Chiefdoms sometimes may want to collect revenue from the respective trade fairs we have in our respective Constituencies. I do believe they have to be sensitised on this for them to clearly understand that it is the councils that are supposed to be collecting revenue and not the local administrators or the native administrators and I want you to treat that very seriously.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, lastly, we have Regent Chiefs across the country. One of the chiefdoms within my Constituency happens to be one of those chiefdoms that are waiting for elections to be conducted. As you know, Regency also undermines Democracy. I want to bring this to your attention that when you take over that Ministry, let us ensure that we speedily conduct those elections and get our substantive Paramount Chiefs within those chiefdoms. On that note, I want to thank Mr Speaker very much for giving me this opportunity and I want to thank Honourable Members for listening. I want to join the other colleagues for the speedy approval of our nominees

because I believe they can perform to expectation and they can also help in moving this country forward. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. We shall now wind up this Debate. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition you have the Floor.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. For the records, I stand with all the submissions that have been made by my colleagues on this side. Thank you.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I want to start by thanking my colleagues for their supports to this particular Motion and I plead with every one of you to please vote for the Motion. To the nominees, I have no doubt that these are people with very high integrity and I see no reason why we should doubt that. I believe that they are going to perform and I want to assure you the nominees that we are always going to be there for you. Thank you very much. I call on Honourable Members to please vote for the approval of these Honourable nominees. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please do not misuse the microphones. I have ears to hear you know. Even if you try to raise the decibels I can still decipher.

[Question Proposed, Put and Disagreed To]

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Mr Speaker, on what Order are you posing the Question again after we have voted?

THE SPEAKER: Because I did not make a ruling and I did not quite hear. *[Applause]*

[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 46[1].

THE SPEAKER: I am not at all surprised nor should any Member of this House be surprised. I did warn earlier on that, I observed a new strategy in the making and it is coming to friction now. This is the second time that S.O 46[1] is been invoked. I know it is the rule of the game, I know it is a game and it is all captured by S.O 46[1]. Honourable Hassan, you have made your point.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: This is all your handwork. I saw you today extremely busy running up and down *[Interrupted]*.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker, I am the Whip of my party and not the Whip of the S.L.P.P *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Let us now follow to the letter the language of S.O 46[1]. I hereby direct that all Members of Parliament outside the Well be asked to come to the Well for this purpose.

[The House was stood down at 2:55 p.m. and resumed at 3:05 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please take your seats. I shall now put the Question for the second time. The first time, I did not hear. You should be patient. After all, this is the new strategy. So, we shall follow it.

[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker, I am still standing on S.O 46[1].

THE SPEAKER: Noted Sir.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I shall now put the Question.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker Point of Order. Mr Speaker, may we know which part of the Standing Orders or the Constitution that says on the approval of appointees when the vote has been taken by voice we have to go into vote?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: I want to answer him Mr Speaker. It is very simple Mr Speaker. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker has allowed me to talk; I am talking with the blessings of Mr Speaker *[Undertone]*.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on.

[Suspension of S.O 5[2]]

THE SPEAKER: I am not going to entertain any interjection as far as this voting process is concern. This time around when I put the Question those in favour of it will please stand and be counted and when I ask for the 'Nays' they too should stand up and be counted. I am not entertaining any more interjections please.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, it is about the voting process. We should know the voters list. The list is important in voting.

[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]

[The Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has been approved]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please take your seats. It is now my privilege and honour to add my own voice to the choruses of congratulations and felicitations you have showered on the new nominees. By your votes, you have clearly endorsed and approved the nominees of Mr President *[Applause]*. They are men of great eminence, they are men who have served their country with great distinction and devotion and I have no doubt what so ever that they will continue to serve this country with even greater distinction and devotion in their new assignments. Go forth with your assignments with honour and glory and with the backing of the Majority of this House *[Applause]*. I wish all of you well in your new assignments. I know you will live up to the expectations of His Excellency the President, this Honourable House and indeed the people of this country. I thank you all for your patience. You may now take leave of us *[Applause]*. I want to recognise before he leaves the House, I want to specially recognise the Honourable Paramount Chief Fasuluku Sonsiama of Sandor Chiefdom, who was one of us, a Member of this House. We respect you and thank you for your presence. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House Rose at 3:20 p.m. and was adjourned to Thursday, 4th July, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.]