



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 26TH APRIL, 2018

SESSION – 2018/2019



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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Thursday, 26th April, 2018.

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Thursday, 26th April, 2018.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 10:25 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

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

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S. O. 5[2]

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS [*Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that item II be removed from the Order Paper. This is because the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Wednesday, 25th April, 2018 is not available at the moment.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader, you said that the record of Votes and Proceedings is not available. I want to know when it be available.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, that document will be available in the next sitting.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY [*Clerk of Parliament*]: Honourable Members, is there any Member designate to be sworn in today? Mr Speaker, there is none.

II. FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SELECTION

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in accordance with S.O. 70, the Committee on Selection shall consist of the following Members of Parliament:

- the Speaker of Parliament as Chairman;
- the Leader of Government Business, Honourable Sidie M. Tunis;
- the Opposition Leader of the APC – the name would be made known when it is received;
- the Leader of C4C, Honourable Saa E. Lamina;
- the Leader of NGC, Honourable Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella;
- 1 representative from Paramount Chiefs, Honourable P.C. Balansama Marah;
- 1 Independent Member- Honourable Quintin Salia-Konneh;
- Honourable Veronica K. Sesay; and
- the Clerk of Parliament is the Secretary to this Committee.

That is the composition of the Committee on Selection.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Mr Speaker, the Independent Members have a leadership and we have communicated it to your office. I was expecting the leadership of the Independent Members of Parliament to be on that Committee. I am appealing that you review the composition of that Committee. Thank you.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, the Standing Orders makes provision for political parties in the House. But because we have a situation wherein we now have independent candidates that was why we made that provision for an independent candidate to be represented. So, it does not really matter at this time whether it should be the Leader of the Independent Candidates or any Member. It is just any Member from the House. We have thought it fit to include a Member of the Independent Candidate to be represented on that Committee.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you look at the composition of the Committee, it consists of mainly leaders of different groups. So, I want to maintain that the leader of the Independent Caucus be included for the respect of the leadership, Mr Speaker. Thank you.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, as far as this House is concerned, you do not have leader of Independent. Therefore, I want to move that the names that were read by the Speaker be approved by the House.

THE SPEAKER: Is that a Motion, Honourable Member?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: It is, Mr Speaker, and you should put it into a vote.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The Committee on Selection, as read out by the Speaker, has been approved]

III. RECOGNITION OF LEADERSHIP

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, item III deals with 'Recognition of Leadership.' In this connection, the following parties have communicated their leaderships to the House:

Coalition for Change [C4C] – the Leader is Honourable Saa Emerson Lamina and the Whip is David Aiah Shek Kassegbama. For the National Grand Coalition Party [NGC], the following persons are to be recognised as leaders of the NGC:

- Honourable Alhaji Dr Kandeh Kolleh Yumkella, Leader;
- Honourable Foday Mario Kamara, Deputy leader;
- Honourable Abdul Titus Kamara, Whip; and
- Honourable Bai Sama Kamara, Deputy Whip.

In the case of the Sierra Leone People’s Party [SLPP], the following are being recognised as leaders:

Honourable Sidie M. Tunis, Leader of Government Business;

Honourable Mathew Sahr Nyuma, Deputy Leader of Government Business;

Honourable Dixon Momoh Rogers, Chief Whip; and

Honourable Alusine Kanneh, Deputy Chief Whip.

Honourable Members, we have not received the leadership list for the All Peoples Congress [APC], but when it is made available, the names will also be made known to the House. I wish to congratulate the Members of the leadership groups of the various parties.

Honourable Members, the next item is announcement, but before I call on the Clerk to make announcement, I would like to make the following observation that the composition of this House is incomplete and I hope and pray that those who have been duly elected to become Members of this House, who are not presently with us in this House, will see good reason to return to the House to represent their constituents *[Applause]*. It is a duty they owe under the law; and it is a duty they owe to this nation and to their constituents. I sincerely hope that by the next sitting, reason will prevail and the people concerned will come and join us and become Honourable Members of this House.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENT

MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the first announcement is that this Honourable House is calling on all Members of Parliament

Designate who have not subscribed to the oath of office to do so immediately. This is because attendance of Parliament has commenced since yesterday and we know that there is provision in the Constitution which states that where a member is absent from Parliament for thirty [30] days in a Session, that Member loses his/her seat. So, it is announced from the Office of the Speaker that all duly elected Members of Parliament should return to Parliament immediately and subscribe to the oath. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let us deal with the sitting arrangement of the House as stated in S.O. 3. I want to call on Members of SLPP, C4C and Paramount Chiefs to sit on the right hand side of the Speaker. To my left, Members of the APC, NGC and Independent Candidates.

HON. SAA E. LAMINA: Mr Speaker, I rise on S.O. 23. Having realised that the leadership structure of the C4C is incomplete, I want to crave your indulgence that I will submit the complete list in due course.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 10:40 a.m., and was adjourned to Thursday, 3rd May, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.]