

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

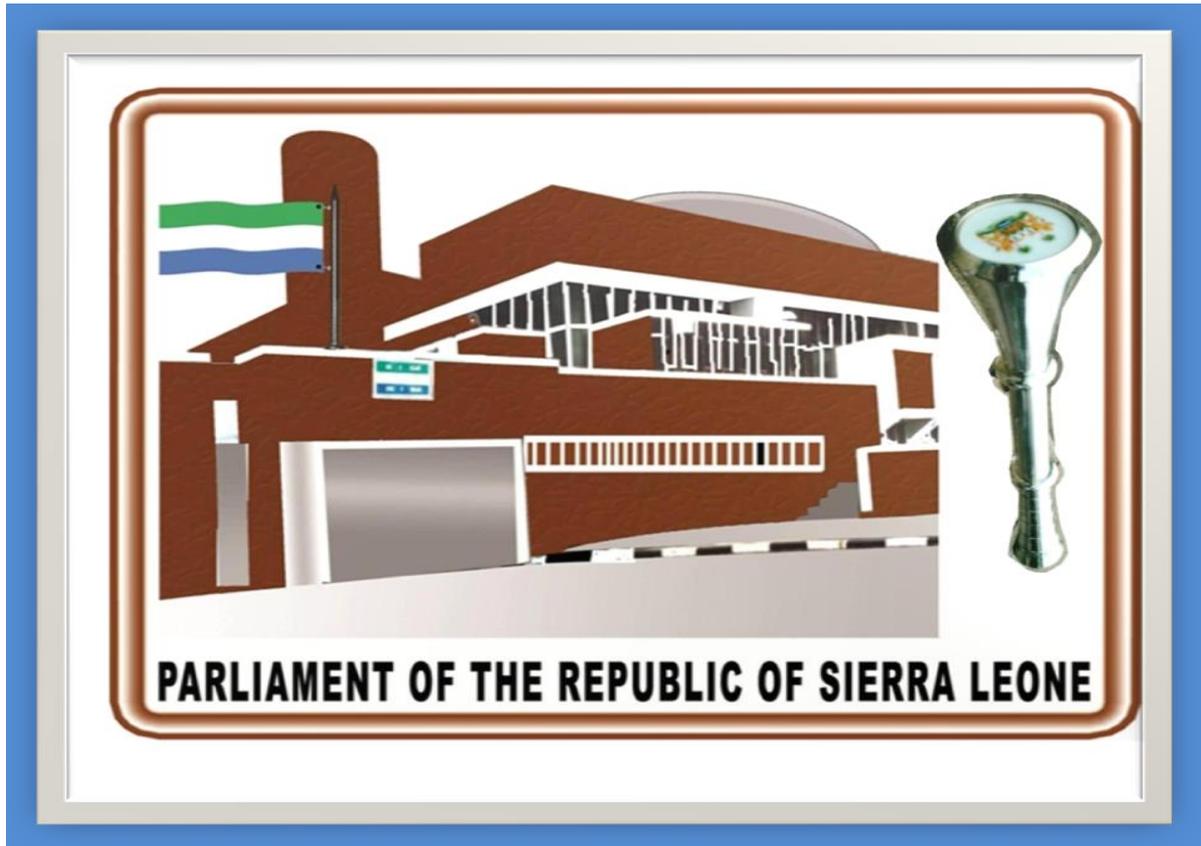
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 5TH JUNE, 2018

SESSION – 2018/2019



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

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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 Tuesday, 5th June, 2018.

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PROPOSER: HON SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE FIFTH REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED.



THE 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**

Tuesday, 5th June, 2018.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 11:45 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown].

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

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY [Clerk of Parliament]: It is very unusual to address members of the gallery, but I am going to use this opportunity to say, distinguished members of the gallery, we are slightly behind schedule and that is why I entreat you to understand that within the next fifteen minutes, sittings will commence. We thank you for your patience and we want to continue to entreat you to be very cooperative. The Speaker will enter the Well shortly. I thank you.

HON SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to move that item V on the Order Paper be expunged.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

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

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed]

[Motion to expunge item V from the Order Paper has not been carried]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, it appears the House is very anxious to have the list of the Select Committee Members announced. It is very clear from the votes that you have just taken. I am sure when we get to that stage, the Leader of Government Business will have something to say. I also hope that by the time we get to that stage, the relevant documentation would have been ready and distributed to Members of Parliament. I hope it is not going to be a tall order. In the interest of speed, we shall announce whatever it is available when we get to that point. On that understanding, we proceed.

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON FRIDAY, 1ST JUNE, 2018.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings of parliamentary sittings held on Friday, 1st June, 2018. We go page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Honourable Members, if your name is incorrectly spelt, communicate that to the Clerks-At-The-Table to take care. Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6?.

THE SPEAKER: Noted, Honourable Member. May I make the following correction from the Speaker's Chair? Paragraph Roman V, attributed to Mr Speaker, the

second line. It should be, 'proviso **in**' and not '**on.**' The word '**bn**' should be replaced with '**in.**' Also, the word '**cause**' should be replaced with '**course.**' Page 7? Page 8?

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, statement by the Speaker on Page 7, the last line. It says, '...development of the Sierra Leone as it is part of the function of an MP.'

THE SPEAKER: Are you taking me back to Page 7?

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Page 7, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Which line, Honourable Member?

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, the last line, under statement by the Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I do not seem to get the point you are making.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: It is okay, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Page 8?

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker, Page 8, No 2, the bottom line. The word '**deputy**' is wrongly spelt as 'D-e-p-u-t-y.'

THE SPEAKER: Noted, Honourable Member. Page 9?

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to move that the second paragraph on Page 9, under 'Sierra Leone Israel Friendship Caucus,' be expunged from the Votes and Proceedings.

THE SPEAKER: It has been moved that we expunge the section relating to the 'Sierra Leone Israel Friendship Caucus.' Any seconder?

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

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Motion to expunge the section relating to the Sierra Leone Israel Friendship Caucus has been carried]

THE SPEAKER: Any further comments or corrections on that Page 9? There being no other corrections or amendments, could somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings of the parliamentary sitting, held on Friday, 1st June, 2018 to be adopted as amended?

HON. ALUSINE KANNEH: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. BOCKARIE MOMOH: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings of the parliamentary sitting, held on Friday, 1st June, 2018 has been adopted as amended].

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

PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO *[Deputy Leader of the Opposition]:* Mr Speaker, we on this side may not be able to take part in any debate that comes out of this document because we simply do not have access to the document. We have not been served this document. This is the document, but I have the document all by myself and the rest of us do not have it *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I will ask the clerks to expedite the production of the document, otherwise we will not proceed *[Applause]*.

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

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: Mr Speaker, may I request, as Acting Leader from this side that my colleagues on the other side and myself meet you at the bar.

THE SPEAKER: I agree, but before we do that, please take your seat Honourable Member. Honourable Members, it has been reported to me that this Nation has suffered a grievous loss in the person of Mrs Abator Thomas, who was Minister of Health in 2005. She was a co-founder and past president of the distinguished organisation known as 50/50 Group. He was a distinguished Sierra Leonean who was deeply committed to the women's movement, progress and advancement in

Sierra Leone. I therefore wish to request that we rise and observe a minute of silence in memory of the late lady. A minute of silence prayer was observed. May her soul rest in perfect peace. You may now come forward.

Honourable Members, after consultations with the Leader of Government Business and the Acting Leader of the Opposition, it has been decided to use the time available to the House whilst we await the production and distribution of the relevant document. In the meantime, I will announce the Members of the Parliamentary Service Commission. I will invite the Leader of Government Business to announce the names of the Members of the Parliamentary Service Commission.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in accordance with the Parliamentary Service Act, 2007 I hereby announce Members of the Parliamentary Service Commission:

1. Hon. Dr Abass Chernor Bundu [Speaker] - Chairman;
2. Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas [Deputy Speaker] - Deputy Chairman;
3. Hon. Sidie Mohamed Tunis - Member;
4. Hon. Chernor R.M. Bah - Member;
5. Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina - Member;
6. Hon. Dr Kandeh Kolleh Yumkella - Member;
7. Hon. Quintin Salia-Konneh - Member;
8. Hon. Dickson Momoh Rogers - Member;
9. Hon. Abdoul Hassan Sesay - Member;
10. Hon. Veronica K. Sesay - Member;
11. Hon. Rugiatu Rosy Kanu - Member;
12. Hon. P.C Fatmata Haja Bintu Meama Kajue Koroma VI - Member;
13. Hon. P.C Prince Mambu Pewa - Member; and
14. Hon. Umar Paran Tarawally - Secretary;

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the names, as announced be adopted by this House.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, any seconder?

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

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

*[Composition of the Parliamentary Service Commission as announced by the
Leader of Government Business has been carried]*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the main item we have today is item III on the Order Paper. Whilst we await the production and distribution of the relevant papers, we have agreed in consultation with both the Leader of Government Business and the Acting Leader of the Opposition that we adjourn the House. In this regard, this House stands adjourn till 1:00 p.m.

[House resumed at 1:00 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I now address the visitors in both the lower and upper galleries. I know you have come to witness an historic moment for those for whom you have come, but please do so with quietness and a decorous atmosphere. If you make any noise and disturb the proceedings of this House, I will ask you to excuse us and the manner of your exit may not be too pleasant. I hope you will heed my advice. This is just a piece of advice. This is a serious House of Parliament and if you want to have your little tattle tattler, you have to wait until we are through with the business of the day, but not in here. Again, I do hope we shall all respect the decorum that you found when you arrived here. Do not disturb our peace and quiet please. I thank you.

Honourable Members, there are so many empty seats. I am beginning to wonder if we have a quorum. I do not see the two Whips of the House. If the Whips are not here, their deputies should please ensure that Members of Parliament come into the Well and take their seats. This is a moment for us to show leadership by example. If we have decided to come here at 1:00 p.m., it has to be 1:00 p.m. GMT not BMT. I am assured there is a quorum, so shall we proceed.

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

PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. MATHEW S NYUMA

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE FIFTH REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS [*Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Fifth Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on parliamentary vetting of Presidential nominations:

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, in tandem with its constitutional obligations, met on Monday, 4th June, 2018 and interviewed eleven Presidential nominees for the following positions:

- [i] Commissioner-General, National Revenue Authority;
- [ii] Chairman, National Telecommunications Commission;
- [iii] Two Deputy Ministers;
- [iv] Chief Immigration Officer;
- [v] Chairman, National Commission for Privatisation;
- [vi] National Security Coordinator, Office of National Security;
- [vii] Director General, National Social Security and Insurance Trust [NASSIT];
- [viii] Executive Chairman, Environment Protection Agency;
- [ix] Chief Executive, National Public Procurement Authority; and
- [x] Director-General, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation.

2. Procedure

The Committee maintained strict consistency with its established procedure. The nominees were interviewed on issues pertaining to their educational background to ensure that they have the relevant education and necessary backup experience to hold such important offices of state. Further probing questions put to the nominees covered wide ranging issues relating to their track records in pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a nationally productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were closely looked into.

3. Sixth Sitting of the Committee on Monday, 4th June, 2018

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

i. Dr Samuel S. Jibao, Proposed Commissioner-General, National Revenue Authority [NRA]

Dr Samuel S. Jibao is a public policy analyst and tax expert with fifteen years professional experience in tax policy and administration, macroeconomic modeling, forecasting and economic management. From 2016 to December, 2017, he was Revenue Advisor to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

Answering to probing questions Dr Samuel Jibao said, **“Under the New Direction, domestic revenue mobilisation is very important for the success of all the flagship programmes of His Excellency the President. One of my major objectives, if I obtain the approval of this Honourable House, is to raise domestic revenue from the current Le1.9tln to Le9tln per annum, to adequately fund the planned programmes of the New Direction. To hit the target, a new tax policy is required to be enacted by this House and an automation of all revenue generation points. This will stop the leakages and seepages in the system. I will also enforce tax laws, especially rental income tax and ensure timely settlement of tax obligations. I believe these measures will help to boost domestic revenue generation.”**

ii. Mr Mohamed Haji-Kella, Proposed Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs

Mr Mohamed Haji-Kella is a United Kingdom registered Social Worker, a specialist in community development, child protection, social welfare, social protection and human rights advocacy. From 2016 to date, he has been serving in the UK as Development Officer; Policy, Equality and Human Rights Lead [specialist Children’s Services Kent County, UK]

In his interview, Mr Haji Kella opined that **“Sierra Leone could only be developed by Sierra Leoneans themselves and that it behooves all of us to make the sacrifice to contribute to national development. This is why some of us have decided to come back home and make our contributions**

and to give back to Sierra Leone what the country gave to us. I therefore take this opportunity to invite our brothers and sisters in the diaspora to come and join us develop our fatherland.”

iii. Mr Joseph Simon Kapuwa, Proposed Director-General, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation [SLBC]

Mr Joseph Kapuwa is a Barrister and Solicitor at BMT Law Chambers, who for more than four years, served at the Public Information Section of the various UN Missions in Sierra Leone as National Professional Officer [NPO] and Head of News. He has served as News Editor, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Services [SLBS] 2000 – 2006 and as legal adviser to the SLBS.

Reacting to the Committee’s inquiries, Mr Joseph Kapuwa said that the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation [SLBC] was established as a national broadcaster that is meant to serve all Sierra Leoneans, regardless of any considerations. The Act, he said, has provided for the SLBC to provide education, information and entertainment for all Sierra Leoneans. He said the Act also gives the SLBC the mandate to ensure that every shade of opinion is heard. **“Notwithstanding the existence of commercial radio stations all over the country, the SLBC Act provides for all political parties, religions and ethnic groups to have access to the facilities provided by SLBC,”** he said.

Questioned about his vision, Mr Kapuwa said that his vision for Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation is to work according to the existing Act, amend the Act when the need arises and to work with all stakeholders to make the corporation viable.

iv. Mr Ibrahim Turay, Proposed Deputy Minister of Marine Resource

Mr Ibrahim Turay is a veteran civil servant who rose through the ranks to the position of Acting Principal of Fisheries in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. From December, 2010 to date, he has been the regional monitoring and evaluating expert for the World Bank funded regional programme; West Africa Regional Programme for Fisheries Management.

Outlining his strategies to raise the 'New Direction' benchmark of collecting **\$100mln** from the fisheries sector per annum, Mr Ibrahim Turay said: **"For the Ministry to meet the revenue target, we will need to strengthen both the policy and regulating framework and that means enacting new laws on fisheries management. Moreover, the aspects of accountability, transparency and enforcing compliance on poachers to pay fines are to be enforced to help raise the targeted revenue."**

v. Mr Ibrahim Brima Swaray, Chief Executive, National Public Procurement Authority

Mr Ibrahim Brima Swaray is a dynamic multi-talented professional with exceptional knowledge in banking, procurement, logistics and supply chain management, marketing/sales, business administration and strategic accounting knowledge. He has experience in public and donor funded projects etc. 2016 to date, he has been the Procurement Officer and Head of Procurement Unit, Sierra Leone Correctional Service.

Responding to a barrage of questions, Mr Ibrahim Brima Swaray promised to work to the best of his ability for the success of the Authority and the New Direction. **"I will work collaboratively with the Board and all stakeholders to ensure that we adhere strictly to the prescribed procurement laws, processes and procedures as provided in the Act and if need be, amend it to block the leakages in the system."**

vi. Dr Prince Alex Harding, Proposed Chairman, National Telecommunication Commission

Dr Prince Alex Harding is a politician of no mean standing who has held ministerial positions in the previous Sierra Leone People's Party [SLPP] Government. He is the current Chairman and Leader of the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party.

Answering to questions on his 'New Direction' plans for NATCOM, Dr Prince Alex Harding said: **"As a policy maker at NATCOM and in line with the 'New Direction,' I will ensure that communication services are improved to such an extent as to contribute significantly to the country's development. If I get the approval of this Honourable House, I will ensure that under my tenure, I will de-politicize NATCOM to enable it carry out its functions**

efficiently and effectively. I will also help establish an electronic governance system to manage government business electronically. To reduce the high mobile tariff levied by mobile companies, I will ensure that we enhance and activate the terrestrial backbone connectivity across the country. This will increase internet connectivity and force mobile companies to reduce prices."

vii. Mr Andrew Jaia Kaikai, Proposed Chief Immigration Officer

Mr Andrew Jaia Kaikai [Esq] is a professional legal practitioner who has lived and practiced law in the United States of America for several years. Mr Andrew Jaia Kaikai served in the Sierra Leone Army [1991 – 2002] and his last held position was that of Platoon Commander, Military Police.

Andrew Jaia Kaikai [Esq] viewed his nomination as a national call, by His Excellency the President, to serve his father land and he promised to work to the best of his ability, without fear or favour, for the realization of the vision of the 'New Direction.'

viii. Umaru Napoleon Koroma [Esq], Proposed Chairman, National Commission for Privatisation

Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma is a private legal practitioner/politician 2004 to date. Under intense questioning by the Committee, Umaru Koroma [Esq.] said: **"I am going to an institution that is meant to govern many parastatals. I wish to assure this House that we will do due diligence, by looking at them in terms of corporate governance issues to ensure service delivery to the people. I will draw on my expertise as a lawyer to ensure that the privatisation and divestiture of all public corporations from the control of the Government to private individuals is done in the best interest of the people of this country."**

ix. Brigadier General Rtd John A. O. Jah-Tucker, National Security Coordinator, Office of National Security.

Brigadier General Rtd Jah-Tucker has had a distinguished military career in the Sierra Leone Army. He was commissioned in 1980 and rose through the ranks to the position of Brigadier General before his retirement in May, 2013.

Agreeing with the Committee to take steps to mitigate national disasters, Brigadier General Rtd John Jah-Tucker said, **“Taking appropriate steps to forestall national disaster needs the collective input and participation of all stakeholders. It starts with the political will, including the affected community, the EPA and the Ministry of Lands, all of which have very important parts to play in mitigating national disasters. The Office of National Security’s major role is to provide intelligent information for His Excellency the President and the Government. If approved by this Honourable House, I would send out officers to gather intelligence on disaster prone areas and forward such reports to His Excellency the President and the government for necessary actions.”**

x. *Mr Mohamed Fuaad Daboh, Proposed Director-General national Social Security Insurance Trust [NASSIT]*

Mr Mohamed Fuaad Daboh is a human resource professional with over fifteen years experience in providing organizational development and human resource management services. He has a broad human resource line management experience and training, combined with an excellent developing country background.

Answering to questions on overhauling the Trust to enable it to perform its core mandate for which it was established, Mr Mohamed Fuaad Daboh said: **“The pension scheme of the National Social Security and Insurance Trust [NASSIT] set in 2001 is now facing serious challenges. The use of pension fund, non-payment of contributions by both government and private employers, and wrong investment decisions of pension fund, non-reporting of dividends, are all bad examples of leadership and politicization of the trust. If approved by this Honourable House, I will conduct a comprehensive systems audit including financial procurement, technical and management audits and audits of all its investments with a view of restructuring NASSIT and making it more effective and efficient. I will, with the help of Parliament, review and amend the NASSIT Act and restructure the institution to make it more efficient and effective.”**

xi. Dr Foday Moriba Jaward, Executive Chairman, Environment Protection Agency

Dr Jaward is a professional and a distinguished Scientist with more than twenty years experience in academia, project management, and policy advisory with keen interest in science and management of chemical pollutants in the environment. He has a long list of publications to his name.

Outlining his plans for the Agency in line with the 'New Direction,' Dr Foday Moriba Jaward said: **"If approved by this Honourable House, my main objectives are to focus on environmental governance, managing forest resources, ecosystem conservation and environmental education. In the area of environment governance, I will, with the help of Parliament, review the EPA Act 2010 and place it under the supervision of the Office of the President. I will monitor industrial establishments for compliance with the environmental laws and regulations. I will also establish independent agencies for disaster management and meteorology to improve the knowledge base and expand actions for early warning. Through environmental education and sensitisation, I will ensure that environmental sustainability of policies, programmes and projects at national and local levels by mainstreaming environmental issues across sectors particularly agriculture, energy, infrastructure, industry, decentralization and shared management of environmental impact analysis for our local communities."**

4. Recommendation[s]

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential Nominees to be adequately qualified for their proposed appointments and they are recommended to the House for approval:

[i] Dr Samuel S. Jibao, Commissioner-General, National Revenue Authority;

[ii] Dr Prince Alex Harding, Chairman, National Telecommunication Commission;

[iii] Mr Andrew Jaia Kaikai, Chief Immigration Officer;

[iv] Mr Umaru Koroma [Esq], Chairman, National Commission for Privatisation;

[v] Brig. Gen. [Rtd] John A. O. Jah-Tucker - National Security Coordinator, Office of National Security;

[vi] Mr Mohamed Fuaad Daboh, Director-General, National Social Security & Insurance Trust;

[vii] Dr Foday Moriba Jaward - Executive Chairman, Environment Protection Agency [EPA];

[viii] Mr Mohamed Haji-Kella, Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Gender & Children's Affairs;

[ix] Mr Ibrahim Brima Swaray, Chief Executive, National Public Procurement Authority;

[x] Mr Joseph Simon Kapuwa, Director-General, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation; and

[xi] Mr Ibrahim Turay, Proposed Deputy Minister of Marine Resources.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Fifth Report reflects the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Fifth Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, any seconder?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA [*Deputy Leader of Government business*]: Mr Speaker, I second the Motion.

[Question Proposed]

HON. MATHEW NYUMA [*Deputy Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know time is fast spent because of certain concerns. Today, we have a galaxy of academic professionals and we have people amongst us who have worked assiduously for this Nation; people who have contributed immensely to ensure that Sierra Leone is at a stage where we are today. They have not worked for themselves, but they have worked for the good of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will single out one of the nominees because of his political interest, hard work and experience in politics. He is a political chemist. He is the brain behind bringing the SLPP into governance. He is the man of the day. We cannot say Alleluia without calling his name. We cannot celebrate our victory without calling his name. He is God sent within the family of SLPP. For God so love the SLPP that he gave us Dr Alex Prince Harding *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I need not go into the academic qualifications of Dr Prince Harding. He established what we called today as the National Telecommunication Commission [NATCOM]. He has the experience, wisdom and the academic qualifications. This is why the President acted within the provisions of the Constitution to provide us with this academia. We are here not because we want to give them political patronage, but to give them what due them to serve this Nation. When you talk about minister it is just a Latin word meaning to serve and to serve your people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Dr Alex Prince Harding has used two schools of thoughts' mottos to do what he is doing today for the SLPP. First, he did not go to Fourah Bay College, but he used what is known as 'Non Sibi sed aliis;' i.e., 'work for others not for thyself. He brought Maada Bio in 2005 and he is a man of his words. In 2005, he said do not give him card, I am going to do it. He took power from a Military Government to a Civilian Government. He took him to the party office and threw a party for him. He used the other motto from another powerful school. We have the adage which says, 'manners maketh man.' He is our Chairman and Leader. His nick name is 'Pauli Aromatic Hydro Carbon.' The word 'Bullet' is also his nick name *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to use our motto because he has worked for it and he deserves it. The motto of the SLPP is 'one country one people.' This is the man I am talking about. He said he would win this election and he has done it. He has travelled around this country extensively. He has travelled to the Northern, Western, Eastern and Southern parts of this country. He once told me that he was in this game because he wanted the SLPP to win the elections. There are only two people in this country that can be in the helms of affairs and win elections,

Dr Prince Alex Harding and on the other side, Dr Victor Bockarie Foh. They are very powerful people in this country. They are blessed with techniques of winning elections. If you remove them from the stage, you will be on the Opposition Bench. APC removed Victor Foh and they are now in Opposition. I do not want to ridicule you because you are being very cooperative and magnanimous enough for us to have these fine gentlemen in front of us. I just want to give you the ridicules of what you do and where you are today. That is the ride of politics.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is difficult for me to talk about my mentor so long, but praise be to God because we have him in our midst. I pray that when he gets to NATCOM, he will make positive difference. In his interview, he said: **"I will depoliticise NATCOM, Momoh Conteh politicised NATCOM."** I thank the President for giving us Dr Prince Alex Harding to serve in the NATCOM.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to single out another giant, especially when we are talking about the 'New Direction.' The 'New Direction' we are talking about needs resources, so that we can achieve its dreams. We are not going to achieve this by words of mouth, but by action. I want to remind all nominees that we are not here to praise them, but to ask them to do their job without fear or favour. They have to do their job for the good of 'mama Salone' because this is our policy. The 'New Direction' agenda is a good policy for the betterment of this country. This is why the SLPP will continue to be in governance forever.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, looking at the economic expectation from the people, I would like to talk about the nominee for the National Revenue Authority [NRA]. He is going to be the engine of revenue mobilisation for the government. He is a professional and very academic. We are not short of human resource. We do not pick, but screen them for us to get the best. They are in this Well, seeking parliamentary approval. You have little but no alternative but to allow them to do their job. Accept them as good Sierra Leoneans who can serve this country, and not the SLPP, NGC or APC. They are not going to serve any single political party, but the good of this country. That is what they stand for and Dr Jibao is a very good example.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President mentioned, in his Speech, fiscal discipline. Fiscal discipline is an area we are going to take very seriously. He told us in the interview that he would collect **Le1.9 bln**. You should not give us ceiling because I do not want that appear as if after you have collected **Le200bln** that is the end for the first quarter. If you collect more than that, you should remit same into the Consolidated Fund. In the previous regime, after they have collected **Le300bln** in the first quarter, for example, they would not have time to take it into the Consolidated Fund. They usually take it to 'Adebayo.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to encourage Dr Jibao not because he has the professional skills, but he should work with the existing people and structures. Do not dismantle any structures because they are members of the APC. They have the right to serve in their political parties, but let there be distinction between you serving your country and serving your political party. This is because we can only succeed under the 'New Direction' by doing the right thing for all Sierra Leoneans. The people of this country deserve to know how the taxes they are paying are utilised. Every single cent must be remitted into the Consolidated Fund, so that Sierra Leone can be a better place for all of us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind Dr Jibao that the people's money must be prudently managed. There must be reserve we can rely on as a Nation. We are economic slaves because we do not believe in paying taxes. The last time I spoke with him, I told him I would not call him the 'tax collector,' but 'tax administrator.' You have all the structures around and you must utilise them prudently. He has the ASYCUDA at his disposal and other institutions. Please work with them and other pertinent structures, so that you can ensure that there is better revenue collection and mobilisation. You should not collect and put in the pockets of individuals, but for the good of Sierra Leone. Work with the policy and challenge those who feel they can go against the policy. As long as what you are doing is in the best interest of this Nation, please go ahead and I will be there to support you. Do not forget that we have our oversight function and that is the reason I have asked you to serve the people and not me. Serve Sierra Leoneans and not individuals.

THE SPEAKER: From my own education, you used the word 'Adebayo.' It is a common name in Southern Nigeria. Would you enlighten us further on that please?

HON. MATHEW NYUMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, once a parliamentarian is always a parliamentarian. The name 'Adebayo S.O. [2] 'na man wae dae buy buku property wit people money.' That is the Sierra Leonean meaning for 'Adebayo.'

THE SPEAKER: Do we have a Sierra Leonean 'Adebayo?'

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, by connotation, we have 'Adebayo,' but he is around. I want to talk about somebody who is a professional. When I was addressing Dr Jibao, I told him not to discriminate people because they believe in the principle and ideology of a particular political party. We belong to a democratic state. Dr Foday Moriba Jaward, Executive Chairman, Environment Protection Agency [EPA] was discriminated because of political belief for the SLPP. His rights were trampled upon because he believed in the SLPP. You deserved the position where you have been nominated to serve, not because you patronised with Maada Bio and the SLPP, but because of your qualifications, you were found to be suitably qualified to head that institution. Do not follow them because of their bad deeds. You are a Muslim and you have to behave like a Muslim. Please serve Sierra Leone instead of individuals. Please work towards ensuring that the 'New Direction' achieves its dreams. We want to see ourselves in the promised land. This country should be in paradise.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the National Social Security Insurance Trust [NASSIT] is the bread basket of this Nation. We brought NASSIT and we would ensure that NASSIT works for the good of all Sierra Leoneans, not for any individual. So, I will plead with you to go there and work professionally. Please work with your colleagues in order to ensure that the people of this country benefit from their pension scheme. If possible, please ensure that pensions are increased, so that the President will get the praise that he is working in the interest of all Sierra Leoneans.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me single out another young man. He hails from Bukakajama Boyamayama; i.e., Mr Ibrahim Brima Swaray, proposed Chief Executive, National Public Procurement Authority. I will not take much time in talking

about this young man. Some of you who presided over a kangaroo system would realise that you were overturned even by your own institution you were in charge of. He is here today not because he wants to be here, but because he deserves to be here and this was why the President nominated him. Mr Swaray is a professional in his field and he has worked so hard. I know he can perform in that job. He is here because he knows procurement processes. I told him in the interview that he would not need to have Anti-Corruption Commission before doing the right thing. I said if you look at the Anti-Corruption Commission Act of 2008 as amended, most of the crimes committed were basically based on breach of procurement procedures. I said he could handle that area professionally; the issue of Anti-Corruption would not bother anyone. I also said he would be part of the team that is fighting corruption in this country. I want you to do your job professionally.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will also talk about a brother knight, who hails from Bukakajama Boyamayama, Kenema District. He sacrificed his time, energy and he is a very young Lawyer. I admired Honourable Ibrahim Kargbo when he said: **"I trained him."** Knowledge is power and he who gives knowledge can only be blessed by God. He said 'I trained a batch and today one of them is representing us in the SLBC; i.e., Mr Joseph Simon Kapuwa, proposed Director-General, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation. Judging from his resume, he has done tremendously well for this country. He has served in different capacities. He has master degree in Mass Communication. I told you earlier that we are not short of professionals. We are only short of bad materials *[Laughter]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope Mr Joseph Kapuwa will perform and he will not disappoint Honourable Members from the other side of the aisle. This is because he was very serious on that issue. After providing a detailed description of Mr Joseph Kapuwa, I took the microphone and I told Mr Joseph Kapuwa that since one of the elders of this House had showered accolades on a brother of Knight of St John, I said Mr Joseph Kapuwa should rise and go home. Everybody accepted and Mr Joseph Kapuwa left the Committee very impressed. You cannot like Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo for what he has done in the past, but he did one thing for us

and we should not forget about it. The present Ministry of Information and Communications played a very crucial role. I thank you for what you did yesterday.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me end up with a very famous man, Rtd Brigadier General John A. O. Jah-Tucker, proposed National Security Coordinator, Office of National Security. He is going to preside over the Office of National Security of this country. We have heard so much about people politicising institutions. Let me borrow the words of the former President of the United States of America, Mr Barack Obama, who once said: **"Do not believe in making strong men but build strong institutions."** Those institutions were used by late President, Dr Ahmed Tejan Kabba and our friends on the other side of the aisle. However, they decided to politicise those institutions. We established democracy in Sierra Leone and we brought peace to this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have plans to turn around the Economy of this country. We are going to ensure that we have institutional freedom, instead of politicising them. We are going to ensure that there is freedom around us because we believe in the principles of democracy. We are not sending you there to threaten people with your Brigadier title. I want to remind you that you are going to meet professionals in that institution. When you were asked a question on how you were going to work with the existing structures and personnel, you told the Committee thus: **"I am a retired Brigadier and I am going to tap into their knowledge, tap into what they have done and look out for things that I think will add value and make sure that this institution attains its relevance.** I said what about disaster? I was taken aback, but I was happy for what he told me. He said: **"We have got our experience and I have started work, even before coming here."** People say you cannot predict somebody's future, but the appearance of Brigadier shows that he is a serious man. He is no nonsense man and he is going there to do the clean-up. He is going to use the existing structures within the organisation to ensure that better structures are put in place.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have to put structures in place that can promote Sierra Leone. If you dampen national security issue, you are putting the

Government into danger. Please work within the structures you have and provide adequate security advice to His Excellency the President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, without much ado, these are fine gentlemen we have in front of us. I join the Leader of Government Business in recommending them to this Honourable House for approval. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I represent the people of Masungbala and other areas. I am drawing the attention of this House to very sensitive issues. Posterity will judge all of us for the things we do as a Nation, we must be serious about upholding our institutions, especially the office of the President. I am worried that the Fountain of Honour, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. spoke about integrity in his Maiden Speech, but what we are experiencing is different because the President, within a month, is reversing his words, either out of pressure or otherwise. Mr Speaker, I am forced this morning...- *[Interruption]*.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker, I stand on 32[5]. With your leave, I read: **"A Member must confine his observation to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto."**

THE SPEAKER: I am sorry, Honourable Member, but I have yet to see what is irrelevant.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, when the Leader of Government Business was presenting the Chairman and Leader of the SLPP, Dr Prince Alex Harding, he told us about depoliticising NATCOM. I am worried, Mr Speaker. On Page 30 of the Presidential Address, the President spoke about depoliticising NATCOM. I must state here that we should work towards safeguarding the integrity of the President. On that note, I would not stand here and see the President's position is reversed in approving... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: What is your point of order, Honourable Member?

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: We should not approve... - *[Interruption]*

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 34. The Honourable Member mentioned the Speech of the President on Page 30. He did not make proper

reference. He just said Page 30 of the President's Speech. If I want to make reference, where do I go? Let him make proper reference for us and the Hansard.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Thank you very much. I refer you to Paragraph 115. I can read it if you want me to do so.

THE SPEAKER: Are you satisfied, Honourable Member? He has just referred you to Page 30, Paragraph 115 of the President's Address. I heard him clearly.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, our brothers in the SLPP side must be careful how to protect the President. They should not have allowed the President's name to be dragged into the mud. I will not allow that in this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to draw your attention to another nominee in this House; i.e., Mr Ibrahim Brima Swaray, proposed Chief Executive, National Public Procurement Authority. Mr Speaker, my colleague on the other side spoke about a kangaroo committee. Mr Ibrahim Brima Swaray who has been nominated to oversee all procurements in this country was found wanting for breach of procurement procedures for the Ebola epidemic in this country. Integrity matters and it must be upheld as a Nation.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, to say the proposed gentleman was found wanting, would you please substantiate that statement.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: I will, Mr Speaker. When my colleague on the other side was talking about a 'kangaroo committee,' he was referring to this Parliament, the Public Accounts Committee [PAC]. That PAC did not only find him wanting, but he was suspended without salaries for three months. I will present the recommendations to this House at the next sitting if permitted to do so. The integrity of the President is what I stand to uphold. I am not bringing these because I belong to the APC, I am simply saying that we must uphold the integrity of the Presidency. I am worried about our democracy.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, let us be clear about one thing here. I do not think it is the integrity of the President that is at stake here. Order! I do not think anyone has impugned the integrity of the President. It is not his integrity that is at stake, but the integrity of the proposed appointee. So, let us be specific about that.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Thank you Sir. I am worried about our democracy in Sierra Leone. When appalling events happen, they usually say, S.O. [2] 'e bi don happen.' In the 'New Direction,' we are expecting something more than what has happened. We should not use ugly events that have happened in the past to justify current actions that are not in the interest of this Nation. The 'New Direction' must give a path way to the development of this Nation. The road we are taking is not good for this Nation's development. I have nothing against the personality of Dr Prince Harding. In fact, he is a distant mentor. I take my seat and I ask that this noble House withhold the approval of these two nominees.

HON. SIRAJIN M. ROLLINGS-KAMARA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I represent the people of Rabbi in this House, Constituency 127.

THE SPEAKER: Just out of curiosity, Honourable Member, are you a real Rabbi?

HON. SIRAJIN M. ROLLINGS-KAMARA: I am an ordained Rabbi at the Atlantic Hall of the National Stadium, witnessed by over 400 Sierra Leoneans, including church leaders and members.

THE SPEAKER: Congratulations, Honourable Members.

HON. SIRAJIN M. ROLLINGS-KAMARA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am honoured Sir. Appointing people to respective positions is the sole prerogative of the President, as provided for by the Constitution. We cannot contest, but for the simple reason that nominees are also brought forward to this House means that we have a responsibility to examine their credibility. In that vein, I think I want to harmonise the intention of the President. Members of Parliament have a parliamentary duty to oversee state institutions as well as those managing those institutions. The Honourable Member from Constituency 019 mentioned the word 'ridicule'. If you check the meaning of that word in the dictionary, the word 'ridicule' in whatever context means 'to make fun.' If that word is anything to go by, it means you were also joking when you said that the SLPP would continue to be in power forever.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start with Brigadier General [Rtd] John A. O. Jah-Tucker, proposed National Security Coordinator, Office of National Security. Of

course, he is a disciplined gentleman. He gave a response which I would like the SLPP to note very seriously. The Honourable Member from Constituency 019 made reference to that statement. I do not have it offhand, but to save time, I would only wish all of us to follow that statement. I want to state here that we are not here to eulogise or panegyrics these nominees. Since we do not have the opportunity to take part in the Committee hearing to give a word of advice to the potential nominees, I want to however talk about few people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Samuel S. Jibao, proposed Commissioner-General, National Revenue Authority. We have many Doctors in the SLPP. Thank you so much, but again we know that head knowledge is not just enough.

THE SPEAKER: They are real, Honourable Member.

HON. SIRAJIN M. ROLLING-KAMARA: I do not doubt them, Mr Speaker. They are real Doctors and I know that.

THE SPEAKER: They are not fathoms, they are real.

HON. SIRAJIN M. ROLLING-KAMARA: Yes, real doctors sir. I am happy for that because he has given us brains to manage the affairs of this country. In leadership, we look at three 'Hs;' i.e., the head, the heart and the hand. The head is the knowledge, the heart is the passion and the hand is the ability. I would only wish that these doctors would harmonise what they have in relation to the heart and the hands. Maybe, this is why we as parliamentarians, should stand by them and say you have been charged with these responsibilities and we are going to police or monitor you, so that you can succeed. This is because when you succeed, it is us that have succeeded [*Applause*]. Maybe, Dr Jibao and Dr Prince Harding have the largest crowds outside. I do not want you to disappoint them at all because they expect much from you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have had a situation wherein somebody was appointed as Commissioner of NATCOM, but he later became district Chairman. The fear people are expressing is that, Dr Prince Harding is the National Chairman of the Sierra Leone People's Party. People are saying that it is an SLPP appointment. This is

where I want to throw the challenge to you to rebuff your critics. You have to prove them wrong by displaying a national outlook.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Umaru Koroma [Esq], proposed Chairman, National Commission for Privatisation. Of course he is laughing. He is indeed a straightforward gentleman. He is the pen-pusher of the SLPP with little borders. Your predecessor is also a lawyer and he may have done a lot. Being a lawyer is not enough for that task. Please use your heart as well to deliver. People are expecting much from you people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I come to my own brother, Dr Foday Moriba Jaward, proposed Executive Chairman, Environment Protection Agency. I have a very close relationship with him, but that will not stop me from telling him the truth. The EPA has the potential to make Sierra Leone and I would like to see a concerted connection between you and the ONS. I am bothered by the illegal constructions in my Constituency. There is a loggerhead between the Sierra Leone Bottling Company and I. Of course, the rainy season is on and we will be expecting flooding. Some of you are aware of the fact that Dwarzark and New England are inclined to such natural disaster and I do not want that to happen. As an ordinary Member of Parliament, my party is not in power and I cannot knock at your door to give me money at any time. I have to make sure that we put in place preventive measures. I would ask the ONS to take a robust approach in making sure that we remove all shanty houses being built on the waterways, so that we can save lives before these ugly incidents happen. The EPA is charged with that responsibility and I am sure the ONS also has a role in that regard. I am sure when disaster happens, that will be time they appear. When you approach them, they will say 'we do not respond to politicians.' You cannot expect me to raise ten, fifteen or twenty million Leones to save a situation. Please, let us do that for the good of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Joseph Simon Kapuwa, proposed Director-General, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation. A lot has been said about him. I am a bit sceptical, which means I am not confident enough that you have what it takes to do the job, not that you are not qualified, but there is room for improvement. I am not challenging you because you have been nominated by the

President, but my view is that do not think you have it all or know it all. Think about your weaknesses and consider working for the good of the Corporation. Of course, my house is just behind you and I am aware of a lot of rancour in your institution. Maybe, it is time for you to cement those cracks. The Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation is a national broadcaster. Despite you have the blessing of the President, you still have so much to do. Forget about the differences and I cannot say your appointment is not political. Once you are appointed by the President, it is political. You have to work for the good of all Sierra Leoneans. I am sure you will succeed. Age is in your favour and you have abundant knowledge. I think you have to apply your passion to make things work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to conclude with what my brother, Honourable Abdul K. Kamara started. I do not think if we have questions of this nature about the gentleman who has been nominated to serve as Chief Executive, National Procurement Authority, especially so having passed through this House of Parliament. There is a big question mark and I can only endorse my brother's point. This has to be considered by this House. Thank you so much.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have before us people carefully chosen by His Excellency the President, who have appeared before the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service and have been forwarded to us for approval.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will start this debate by singling out Dr Prince Alex Harding. Dr Prince Alex Harding is a seasoned administrator. For somebody to serve in the capacity of Chairman and Leader of a political party that wins an election, it means that you are a disciplined politician and a seasoned administrator.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my colleague Honourable Member briefly spoke about a quote in the Speech of the President that he was going to depoliticised NATCOM. In my view, that is what he has just done by appointing Dr Alex Prince Harding *[Applause]*. Indeed, he is Chairman and Leader of the Sierra Leone People's Party at the same time, but we must also acknowledge the fact that being a Chairman and Leader of a political party and being appointed to head an institution, will definitely not make that appointment or your operation in that institution

political. The Constitution is guiding principle in this case. The President has looked at the 1991 Constitution and he knows that he is a disciplined individual. With the wealth of knowledge and experience, he is going to depoliticised that institution and I have no doubt in him.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will comment on the statement made by my colleague Honourable Member, when he said that Mr Ibrahim Brima Swaray was found wanting at one point in time. The Constitution is very clear. One is not qualified to be a Minister unless you are qualified to be a Member of Parliament. The only institution that will find somebody wanting and which has the right to prevent you from being a Member of Parliament or a Minister is the Judiciary. There is no record in the Judiciary of Sierra Leone that has condemned that young man. The nominee has not appeared before a judicial tribunal and therefore he has not been found guilty of any crime. I will therefore implore all of us to discountenance reference to a document we have not seen. As Honourable Member of Parliament, I have not seen that document and I would not allow myself to be prejudiced by anything I have not seen.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Foday Moriba Jaward. I have known Dr Foday Moriba Jaward since I was a child. I know him to be somebody who is meticulous and who takes his time in discharging his functions. He had served in this country as Head of Department at Njala University College. He is an academic and I am pleased he has decided to come back and give back to his Nation. I have no doubt that with your presence, you will not only concentrate on the duties of the Agency, but you will partner with other colleagues, ministers and Members of Parliament who have decided to come back to guide young academics as to how to publish papers in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the problems in this Nation is that we are neglecting research. That is because research methodology has not been properly delivered in our institutions. If we are to develop as a Nation, we must take research issues seriously. I am a seasoned researcher and that is why I am passionate about academic research. I have no doubt in your ability to deliver papers or lecture young graduates in research.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Umaru Koroma [Esq], proposed Chairman, National Commission for Privatisation. This is a very young man. We got to know each other properly when we were refugees in Guinea. As refugees, we built our own camps, slept on the floor and attended refugee schools. We were however determined to succeed. He said the civil war will not prevent me from being a successful person. He worked harder and later found himself in the city. He later went to the University and he is one of the best lawyers in this country. He is very close to his law books. He is well respected by the entire Judiciary. He can look at your face and tell you that what you have done is wrong. I am going to tell the world that what you have done is wrong.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I can vividly remember on an occasion when we went to the Inspector-General of Police, who is no longer in his seat. A particular decision was taken that was not good for this Nation. I was a bit terrified. He said to the Inspector-General of Police thus: **"Is this what you have decided? I am going to call a Press Conference and tell the world the type of Inspector-General you are."** I have no doubt in his capacity to perform. He has passion for this Nation. He has a very good and sound academic tract record. He is financially disciplined and very passionate about fighting corruption. I have no doubt that if approved by this Honourable House, he would supervise all parastatals under his purview professionally.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Samuel S. Jibao, proposed Commissioner-General, National Revenue Authority. I consider the NRA as the bread basket of Sierra Leone. I have known Dr Samuel S. Jibao for a very long time. I want to remind this House that the President made no mistake in nominating him for that position. He must have looked at these people years before today. The nominee is a Sierra Leonean and he has been around for quite a while now and the President must have seen these men for a very long time. These are financially disciplined Sierra Leoneans. I know the NRA has had issues of late. My colleague has just spoken about threshold. Before now, we have been hearing that the NRA had collected five or ten trillion. The truth is that we want to mobilise our resources to a point where we will be able to be self-reliant. We do not want to continue to rely on

foreign donors. If Sierra Leoneans agree not to evade tax and these taxes are collected, we do not need donor funds. Again, those who are charged with the responsibility of managing these funds should account for them. They should be accountable. I have no doubt that we will stop relying on donor funding.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I really want us to look at these people from the fact that they are Sierra Leoneans. We should also look at what they are capable of doing. I Honourable Hindolo Moiwo Gevao, I will tell you it matters not where I am from. If a nominee comes before us and that person is not qualified as per Constitution, I will stand and say it in this Well. I have subscribed to the oath and that is why I stand here. I implore all of you to look at them as Sierra Leoneans. Please look at their credentials as eloquently expressed in this document that has just been read before us and approve them. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member for your contribution. Let me just address a small matter raised by Honourable Member from Kambia District, Honourable Sirajin Rollings-Kamara. You did not specify exactly what you meant by the nominee being found wanting and therefore, he should not be approved by this Honourable House. Before you can become a Minister, you must be qualified as a Member of Parliament. If you look under the 'disqualification provision in the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone,' Section 76[1][d] states: **"No person shall be qualified for election as a Member of Parliament if he has been convicted and sentenced for an offence which involves fraud or dishonesty."** I am sure when you said the gentleman was found wanting, I am sure you used that in the broad general sense and not in the sense of 76[1][d] because you produce no evidence to substantiate that he was found wanting or convicted and sentenced for a crime involving fraud or dishonesty.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. God bless you. I am an Independent Member of Parliament, representing Constituency 104, Pujehun District. Mr Speaker I would have been in my village breathing fresh air and eating natural food, but I decided to stay because I saw some names on the list of nominees and that is why I am here *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, let me remind you because I know your propensity. I will limit you to ten minutes.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the first place, I would like to remind this House that we are here to serve national interest. That was why I was so happy when the President said his 'Victory' was not only for the SLPP or for himself, but for this great nation we call Sierra Leone. In one of my presentations, I reminded our brothers and sisters in the SLPP that the SLPP vote was not enough to make President Bio the President of this Nation. If it were enough, he would have been President in the first round of the ballot. When we went to the second round, all of us who were not SLPP, majority of us voted for him. I felt very proud when he said he was President for all of us. I was also happy when he spoke about the 'New Direction.' I was born in the system that has remained unchanged.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I have limited you to ten minutes and let me remind you of S.O 32[5]. Please speak to the point that is relevant.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Thank you Mr Speaker. I am happy that the nominees of the President are in the 'New Direction.' If we want to move in the 'New Direction,' we must have the right people in the right places. We should not appoint people who do not have anything to offer because you can never give what you do not have.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Mr Mohamed Fuaad Daboh, proposed Director-General, National Social Security & Insurance Trust. I used to call him Chief Daboh and I have known him for several years. I have known him to be a very serious person. I am happy that he has been nominated to be in a position where he will be able to make decisions. I also know a few other persons in the persons of Mr Andrew Kaikai, Dr Jaward, but since I have less than ten minutes, I will just stick to the point.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what I want to say here is that those I have known and the ones I do not know, I believe they were screened by the President. I believe they will be able to perform beyond expectation. I just want to remind them they are going to head different institutions and they will be making decisions. Please go there and work with the teams. You are going to work with people who,

over **80%**, have been serving the past regime. They are waiting to see the directions you will be moving. Some people are very good, but they have been transformed into bad persons because of the system. The system still exists. They are waiting to see the direction you are going to take. If you prove to them that you are serious and you are there for a change, they are going to follow suit because when fish begins to decay, it will start from the head. I would like you to be role-models by setting good examples. You have to move in the 'New Direction.' I am sure with your expertise, experience and skills, you can turn the destiny of this country in the positive direction.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have suffered a lot. You cannot compare the Police in Sierra Leone to the Police in most other parts of the world. In the same token, you cannot compare Members of this Parliament to other Members of Parliament in other countries. Our country is very rich, but we are one of the poorest on earth. This is because we have not been able to transform our huge mineral resources to better our living conditions. I was very happy when the President said we were moving in the 'New Direction.' With God's help and the nominees in front of us, I believe we can move in the 'New Direction.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am an Independent Member of Parliament and I will say what is good for my country. I do not have to report to any political party. If I do not believe in what I say, I keep quiet. I think it is good for our country to support the President. After five years of his tenure, we are going to make a report card about him and we are expected to judge him fairly. We have to give him our maximum support because if he succeeds, it will be a success for all of us; but if he fails [God forbids], it will be a failure for all of us [*Applause*]. I believe we either prosper together or perish together. When he said he is President for all, I want to urge my brothers here to work in the national interest. There is no way that one part of this country can progress without the other. If you are patriot, you have to love every Sierra Leonean. I would like you to really show us development. Most of the time development is on paper. People tell us how they have changed our living conditions on paper. If you go to the communities, life is very deplorable. I do not

want us to have development on paper. I want to see real development in those institutions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some Members of Parliament are representing the rural communities. I want to talk about the SLBC Television. Most of our people out there do not have access to it. I want to appeal to the man who will be in charge to ensure that our people, who are in the rural areas, are able to watch television news. Solar energy is being provided to most of these remote communities. Television should not only be for the cities. People in the rural areas are in majority and they should have access to television.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Mohamed Fuaad Daboh, proposed Director-General, National Social Security & Insurance Trust. We hear about affordable houses that are sold hundreds of millions of Leones. Our constituents cannot afford those houses and they are members of NASSIT. I would want you to consider the construction of low cost houses, using local materials that can be affordable to people who are earning low income. Some of us do not have air conditions in our houses. What we want is a decent living space. We cannot afford houses constructed by NASSIT. NASSIT should not only build for city dwellers. It should not only build for those who are earning huge salaries. Please consider local materials and construct low cost houses for majority of Sierra Leoneans who live in the provinces.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you very much.

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

HON. DR ROLAND F. KARGBO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I seem to be having some sort of luck these days to catch the Speaker's eye.

THE SPEAKER: An extraordinary one too.

HON. DR ROLAND F. KARGBO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to make a soft statement to thank His Excellency the President for the nominations. I think they are good nominees of eminence and luck. I want to emphasise the word 'lucky' because these are learned people. They have true PhDs like mine. They spent years learning and when they became politicians, they still

remain learned people. There are so many learned people in this country that when you catch the eye of the President, it is luck. That is luck and luck must be followed by work. It means you have distinguished yourself enough for His Excellency to know that this is material and this material is taken out, it is expected to perform to the expectation of His Excellency, especially in the offices where they are going to serve. The tendency for us who have learned to dictate to those that we will meet when we get into office is always high. I think that will not bring out the best result. It is a group work. You have more knowledge. You are more informed than them, but you must listen to them and make informed-decisions. These decisions must be in the interest of your workers, but more so in the interest of the nation. We hope this is going to be the case.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, judging from the names we have here, I noticed that the President is so concerned about the size or magnitude of the work he has set himself to achieve. He has put in an emergency call to draw the best brains in his party to come and help him. We have Umaru Koroma [Esq] and Dr Prince Harding with us. They are out of the SLPP offices to help. However, I advise that you leave behind your political robes and use your expertise you have acquired along to serve this country and to serve the people. You should not be seen serving the SLPP or APC. I want to appeal to you to do your best. I think a lot of vetting has been done. We do not envy the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service because they do the dirty job. If there is any doubt about the nominee, that doubt is dealt with down there at Room 1. When candidates go through that process and are presented here, it means all the rubbish has been removed. This is our hope and this is our expectation that the robes of politics and partiality have been left in the offices. These are people who come with their academic backgrounds to do their duties.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a part to play as a Parliament. For these people to succeed, we also need to strengthen our Oversight functions. The present allocation for Oversight may not be enough for us to perform our functions. We will want to follow up these nominees as somebody said the last time, we do not just want to praise them here and allow them to go. We want to follow up and make

sure that they perform to expectation. I want to appeal to the Parliamentary Service Commission to ensure that enough provision is made for this Parliament to do its work effectively. I thank you, Mr Speaker *[Applause]*

THE SPEAKER: I frankly will recognise people who have not had the opportunity to contribute. Those who have had the opportunity at the Committee Level spare me by taking your seats.

HON. MOHAMED BANGURA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for allowing me to lend my voice to this great debate. Because of time, I am going to limit myself to only one or two nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start with Dr Prince Alex Harding. I have known Dr Prince Harding for the past ten to eleven years. I can tell you, integrity, competency and maturity are few of the virtues embedded in this man *[Applause]*. I have known Dr Prince Harding to be a man of his words since his political days. I know what I am talking about. I was Chairman of a political party and I was Chairman for all political parties in this country and Dr Prince Harding belongs to that Association. For a man to be Chairman of a party and led that party to victory suggests that he is a man of his words.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, politics is over and we must focus our attention to develop this country. The SLPP alone cannot run this country alone. We have to run it with them if they are ready. I know Dr Prince Harding to be a no nonsense man. He is going to take over NATCOM and it is a Commission which roles do not give room for political inference at all. For the fact that he is Chairman of the SLPP does not mean he will go there as Chairman of SLPP, but Chairman of NATCOM *[Applause]*. NATCOM is well-structured. As former Minister of Information and Communication, I know that NATCOM is well-structured. Even if you want to come in and play politics, you will not succeed in doing so.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have to give chance to these nominees to go there and perform. His Excellency Julius Maada Bio nominated them not because they are the most competent Sierra Leoneans to serve in these positions, but today they have found themselves there. All we need to do, as Members of Parliament, is to support them. Those who belong to the Committee on Information should be

ready to play their Oversight role. I know that Dr Prince Harding is ready to go into that office with the Serra Leonean lens and not as a politician. I know he is going to leave behind his political cap and goes with professionalism. NATCOM is one of the most prestigious parastatals in this country. Therefore, you need somebody like Dr Prince Harding to run that institution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President did say he would depoliticise NATCOM, but that does not mean he will not send politician there. In this country, everybody belongs to a political party *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma. If approved by this House, he will take over the National Commission for Privatisation [NCP]. The previous Commissioner almost shutdown that office. It is a very sensitive and important office. When you go there, do not look at yourself as the Minister in charge of eight [8] ministries because that is the role of the Commission. It has more than seventeen state enterprises. Do not go there with the intention to usurp the functions of the Minister. When you were elected Secretary-General of the SLPP, some people doubted your capacity and ability to run a political party like the SLPP, but today you have proved them wrong. The SLPP is now in power. I know that you will bring out the usefulness of that institution. You are going to tap into the resources of the elders and run that office.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I urge this House to speedily approve the nominees of the President *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Least I am accused of ignoring gender, may I now recognise the lady Honourable Member.

HON. REBECCA Y. KAMARA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am representing the Coalition for Change Party [C4C]. First of all, I bring you greetings from the Republic of South Africa. Actually, I do not know the nominees. I am a Member of the Committee on Appointments and I was just sitting there, listening to the Committee. I however found them to be fine gentlemen.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start with Dr Samuel S. Jibao, proposed Commissioner-General, National Revenue Authority. The NRA is the back-bone in

terms of revenue collection. I believe, if properly managed, Sierra Leone will take the cue from last to second. I want to remind the nominee that there are lots of loopholes in the management of our revenue, especially along our border towns or along the Guinea Highway. We are Members of Parliament and we represent our people. We cannot say we will be able to satisfy all our people within these five years. Most of our people are petty traders. They are facing lots of challenges with the NRA officers along the road. I want to plead with the nominee not to witch-hunt people. You are not going there to get people out of their jobs. Please, I admonish you to ensure that a very good system is put in place, not only in Freetown, but along the highways or places where petty traders go to buy their goods. After paying to the NRA officers along the Guinea Highway, the NRA officers at the district levels usually ask them again to pay, but leaving bigger mining companies who are supposed to pay their taxes. They are disturbing the petty traders who are just selling rubber bowls and slippers. I am begging you to ensure that a very good system is put in place, so that these petty traders are protected. They have families to feed. They should also comply with the laws and policies of the Government.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Prince Alex Harding, proposed Chairman, National Telecommunication Commission. Although you are not my Chairman, but I salute you. I respect you so much *[Applause]*. These mobile companies have stolen a lot from the poor people *[Applause]*. I am a victim and I also know that you are all victims of those bad deeds. Maybe you will not be able to regulate that within five years, but I want to admonish you to ensure that a greater percentage of these issues is looked into, so that our people can be able to use **Le10, 000** in their phones to communicate. That is my submission to you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Andrew Jaia Kaikai, proposed Chief Immigration Officer. Our passports are in the hands of foreigners more than Sierra Leoneans *[Applause]*. It is visible and they are out there. Please go and crosscheck these Nigerians, Lebanese and other foreigners. They have our passports to an extent that our passports are not useful in the international world because criminals who are not Sierra Leoneans use them. They use our passports to cause havoc. I want to remind you that Immigration is a very big institution. Lots of things have

already happened in that institution and have caused problems for our country. Please sir, I am not saying you will not be able to regulate that institution within this five years, but do your work to complement what our President said in his statement, so that we in the C4C will say indeed, it is a 'New Direction' [Applause].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I turn to Brigadier General [Rtd] John A. O. Jah-Tucker, proposed National Security Coordinator, Office of National Security. I am concerned with the Districts Security [DISEC]. At the district level, the DISEC is working, but I do not think whether it is well-equipped to take early warning information or security information from the chiefdom levels. I am appealing to the nominee to look into this issue if approved by this House. I will suggest that you set up a structure at chiefdom level because some of the security threats start at chiefdom level. Looking at the eleven years civil war, it started at the village level, and by the time the information reaches here, it has become something bigger than expected. Therefore, the chiefdom level security is also very important. There are structures that can feed into the district level structure, which is the DISEC, so that you can get vital information on security that is relevant in our country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Mohamed Fuaad Daboh, proposed Director-General, National Social Security & Insurance Trust. Some of us were workers before coming here and we have been requesting our former employers to provide NASSIT statements. That process has been very tedious. The statement is important because it enables you to know whether you are doing well in your contribution or not. In fact, there are many workers in this country who are not part of NASSIT. They do not have NASSIT Pin Codes and nothing is being done for those people. Some employers are making false claims that they have paid your NASSIT, which of course; you do not have NASSIT Pin Codes. I therefore admonish you to also look into that issue. You have to ensure that proper sensitisation is made, so that mining companies can also pay for their employees. This has to be recorded in their books at the end of the day and when NASSIT statements are published, people will be able to track their contributions as to how much they have paid as contribution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Foday Moriba Jaward, proposed Executive Chairman, Environment Protection Agency. The EPA has been working with the mining companies, but there are environmental hazards in our communities that are causing lots of problems. There are places where they have dug ditches that are very dangerous. There are also artificial lakes that are causing lots of damage in our communities or environments. What is the EPA doing with the moneys they are collecting from mining companies? This is very important; and if approved by this House, please look into these issues, so that those moneys could be used to rehabilitate those communities. We want the local people or communities to use those moneys for their sustenance.

Also, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the EPA should ask the Ministry of Mines about the surface rents people having been paying. According to the Act, those moneys should be used to reclaim lands that have been depleted. If you go to these mining communities, you will find very deep holes that have been left opened. If you ask the Ministry of Mines, they will tell you that the money is not enough for land reclamation. If you could bring the parties together, it will go a long way to solve some of these problems. You can even beef up the money to reclaim those lands.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I look at the National Public Procurement Authority. Procurement, in this country, is nothing to write home about, especially when you look at these Local Councils. How are they doing their procurements? I have witnessed Oversight Committee hearings that usually go to these Councils to inquire into the use of public funds. They have been linking their hearings to radio stations, but no significance change has taken place. I pray that this time around we in this Well of Parliament when going on oversight committee meetings or engagements will come back and take action on committee recommendations. They have been thinking that these oversight committees, after talking with the Councils, they will come back and take action against those Councils. That never happened, Mr Speaker. If my memory serves me well, I witnessed a public hearing between the Committee and Kono City Council. Something happened in which one of the officials procured agricultural materials. He was found wanting, but after that, nothing happened. He was just transferred to another Council. They transferred him, so that

we would not ask questions. We do not know whether you have been accused wrongly or not, but we are asking you to work for the people of this country. You are not going to work for any political party. You are not just going to work for the President's dream or the dream of your party, but you are working for the people. You are going to work for yourself and your children because if you fail, we will make reference to your children.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand to make these comments because I have soft spots for development. I always want to see development because I have children. I know that we all have children. The foundation we lay today will go a long way to make or unmake this country. There are talks going round that S. O. [2], 'na wi tem dis.' In as much as this is the time for the SLPP, make sure you use this time to wipe away the tears of sierra Leoneans who have been crying in the last ten years. I rest my case, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have the Floor to make your contribution. I know you have been pleading so I will therefore recognise you.

HON. JOSEPHINE MAKIEU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I proceed talking about this great people before this House, I will first of all commend the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, who has given us these noble men to work for this our beloved country. I want to comment on only two nominees. I am grateful to the President because he is a grateful person himself. I admire the lens he used to select these people. We want to see work in this country. These are people who are not only eloquent and personate to deliver on their assignments, but these are people who mean good for this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank the President for giving us no less a person but Dr Prince Harding. Honourable Members, Dr Prince Harding is my mentor. I happened to know him in 1992, when he was trying to mobilise the party against the APC. He worked assiduously and fought very hard to make sure that the SLPP regain victory at that time. During the rebel war, he worked with the late President, Dr Ahmed Tejan Kabba. It was almost unimaginable to believe that the SLPP was going to come back to power at that time. But with his good knowledge and his administrative skills, he did it. We won and so many things happened whilst

serving as the Secretary General of the party. And when he left that office, we were again in opposition. When I heard that Dr Prince Harding was coming to lead the party as Chairman and Leader, I was among the very first people to ensure that he won that election. Indeed, everyone will attest to the fact that Dr Prince Harding is no nonsense man. He is a man of high calibre and we know he is going to perform in his new appointment. He has done so much for this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind Dr Prince Harding that I had a meeting with the stakeholders of the Eastern Province. One of the concerns they raised was that they would like to be in their beds in the districts and enjoy the services of telecommunication companies like us in the urban cities. Every chiefdom should be provided with such facilities, so that people will not have cause to relocate somewhere in search of network or mobile phone reception. We may have emergency calls to address problems in our constituencies. We know that you can deliver and we will start talking about positive changes due to your good works. I want to remind all of us that it is our duty to bring challenges from constituencies, chiefdoms and districts to his attention, so that he can take appropriate measures to resolve them. As parliamentarians, we should take that responsibility to ensure he is approved.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other person I want to comment on is Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma. He is lawyer and he has served the SLPP very well. We believe that he will deliver. Make sure you position the 'New Direction' in a proper way. Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma is somebody who listens to people, despite his political background. I want to remind you that the office is not only meant for you. We are very sure that you will work for all Sierra Leoneans. I want to commend you for doing extremely well for this party.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, I move to Mr Mohamed Fuaad Daboh, proposed Director-General, National Social Security & Insurance Trust. When I lost my daughter in 2011, I was in the process of collecting my daughter's pension and Mr Mohamed Fuaad Daboh was the person I met. He gave me all the guidance I needed. This man had worked so much for that office, but he was intimidated and marginalised to the extent that he was not able to realise his full potentials despite

his expertise. Now that you have been made head of NASSIT, we are asking that the services provided by that office are made available to our people. We do not want our pensioners to be roaming around the streets. We want their benefits to meet them on time, so that they will feel at home. You have to ensure that our people feel your presence. Please make a positive difference that will assure people that somebody different is now in charge to help them. I ask this noble House to approve all these nominees. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Mercifully Honourable Members, no one will accuse me of gender bias any more. I was going to call on the Acting Leader of the Opposition to wind up the debate. Are you standing on a Point of Order?

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: I was going to ask that we fast track the debate as our people want to attend a funeral service.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you for the advice. I will take three speakers from either side of the aisle, follow by the two leaders to wind up the debate. I will start on this side.

HON. MOHAMED S. KASIM-CAREW: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to thank the President for nominating these fine gentlemen. I only want to touch on two people.

THE SPEAKER: I am sorry, but you have to suffer the penalty of latecomers. I will limit you to five minute.

HON. AHMED S. KASIM-CAREW: Thank you sir. I start with Mr Joseph Simon Kapuwa, proposed Director-General, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation. I believe the President made no mistake in choosing you to serve as Director-General of SLBC. The only thing I want to advise is that the people of Sierra Leone are tired of a second class station. The SLBC is owned by the government and we should ensure that the local content policy is adhered to. In other words, the entertainers of this country want to showcase their talents, so that they will have a place on the World stage. Some of them specialised in arts and crafts, some are musicians, whilst others are actors. They want the people to recognise what they are doing. I do not want to say much about that, but the people are asking for recognition.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the second person I would like to talk about is Dr Prince Alex Harding, Chairman, National Telecommunication Commission [NATCOM]

[Suspension of S.O 5[2] being 12:00 noon

HON. AHMED S. KASIM-CAREW: I know you are going to depoliticise NATCOM. I just want to assure this noble House that politics is over and we expect Dr Prince Alex Harding to go there to represent this country. He is not going there to represent a political party. I am pleading with you because there are rumours going round that you are going to relieve everybody that is working there. I want to believe you are a man of honour. Many people have been pleading on behalf of this Nation for a level playing field at NATCOM. We are expecting you to make sure that we own mobile communication companies like other countries *[Laughter]*. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I recognise the Honourable Member from Falaba District.

HON. MOHAMED B. SHAW: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am from the far end of the North, but I am okay with that. I must start by congratulating all the nominees present here this morning. I refer to you as tenants because the positions you occupy now are on rental. You are going to occupy these positions because the President trusts you and he believes you can perform. I also want to believe that you will deliver and I wish you well in your offices.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will comment on two nominees and I start with Dr Prince Alex Harding. He is a mentor and he taught me a lot of things. He is a God-fearing man. He also taught me to be God fearing in anything I do. I believe if the President said he was going to depoliticise NATCOM, it does not necessarily mean he will not appoint individuals from the SLPP to man the affairs of NATCOM *[Applause]*. I want to allay the fears of colleagues on the other side that the President meant 'there would be no orders from above in the course of executing NATCOM's operations. He also meant that Falaba, Koinadugu, Kono and every part of Sierra Leone will have communication despite their political affiliation or region. That was what he meant and he has chosen the right person who is going to deliver Sierra Leone. I want you to know that he will deliver NATCOM. Yes, we can do it and we will do it with him *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Ibrahim Brima Swaray, proposed Chief Executive, National Public Procurement Authority. Well, I want you to forget what people are saying about you. I believe these are the challenges along the line in life. You must have people who are always trying to pull you down *[Applause]*. They are not pulling you down, but making you stronger in executing your duties. Please go and prove them wrong *[Applause]*. Sierra Leoneans believe in the SLPP and the the Leader, who is now the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone is working hard to liberate this country from poverty. I know he has chosen the right people to man various departments in this country. The President did not nominate you to serve the SLPP or members of the SLPP or your families, he chose you to help him man the affairs of the State. I am admonishing you to treat everybody equally. We are all Sierra Leoneans and no one group or political party can make Sierra Leone alone. We can make Sierra Leone if we are united. Unity will help us move this country from where it is to another level. We have to be more patriotic in our deeds. We have to think Sierra Leone first and the people we are representing before we think about political parties. I know some people are familiar with 77[1][k], but we have to put the people first.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these individuals have what it takes to move the various institutions they have been nominated to serve to another level *[Applause]*. I am pleading for us to approve and allow them to fall by their weights. I know they will not disappoint the President and the people of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Brigadier General [Rtd] John A. O. Jah-Tucker, proposed National Security Coordinator, Office of National Security. I want to inform you that most of the security personnel sent to the various chiefdoms have erected two to three checkpoints, collecting moneys from bike riders, instead of doing what they are expected to do. If they are collecting moneys, they should also do the work they were sent there to do. Let them prioritise the security sector. Of course, I have no doubt that you will deliver because we fought the fight together in Falaba. Falaba will rise again. I thank you all.

THE SPEAKER: You have the Floor, Honourable Member.

HON. MOHAMED M. KALOKOH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I want to welcome these fine gentlemen. I represent Constituency 032, Bombali District. I want to welcome these nominees, but I want to start by paying tribute to the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service for screening them to this level. I want to admonish them that they have a responsibility to deliver this Nation and to enhance proper service delivery for our people. I will not attempt to talk about them individually, but to caution all of them. Now the Committee has done its work and as a Member of Parliament, we trust that Committee. They have done a perfect work and they have presented them to us for approval. If you look at the functions of this Committee, it underscored few key words; i.e., 'maintain consistency and probing,' which they have done.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind the nominees about the numerous challenges they will be facing in the various institutions they are going to serve. They have to learn the art of solving problems instead of complaining. Please work towards transforming those challenges into development for the benefit of this Nation.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Prince Alex Harding [*Applause*]. Some of us have known Dr Prince Alex Harding when he was Minister of Transport and Aviation under the Government of late Dr Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. I came to understand that Dr Prince Alex Harding is a no nonsense person [*Applause*]. I want you to use that accolade to push this Nation forward. We should ensure that we provide services to our people. The structures are already in existence and you have to make use of them. If structures are there, but the human beings who are going there are not serious, there will be no development. You have to work in making sure that these structures function properly, so that Sierra Leoneans can benefit.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind the nominee for the SLBC that there are numerous challenges he will meet, but I want to ask this House and the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the required resources are provided for the operation of that institution. We want the SLBC to regain its name as a national broadcaster.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my colleague who first spoke this morning is sitting very close to the Leader of Government Business who said that the APC will not sit on that side again. I want to tell this House that you are there on a temporal basis because the APC Party is the host and we hosted you and we will ask you to leave those seats and come over here *[Laughter]*. He also said that they brought democracy in Sierra Leone. I refer you to the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. I cannot quote the particular section, but I refer you to the entire book.

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

THE SPEAKER: And what is your point, Honourable Member?

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: I stand on S.O. 34. The Honourable Member is not speaking on the Motion we have on the Floor. He is addressing the Deputy Leader.

THE SPEAKER: I am sure you wanted to refer to the relevant section in the Standing Orders which talks about that issue. I consider his contribution relevant. Honourable Member, please go ahead.

HON. MOHAMED M. KALOKOH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I was saying, the Honourable Member said that the SLPP brought democracy, but I want to remind him that we brought democracy. This is because the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone brought democracy in Sierra Leone. The APC pioneered the writing of the 1991 Constitution and the current Speaker of this House was one of the architects. He was very instrumental in ensuring that the 1991 Constitution is put in place. Today, we are benefiting from the 1991 Constitution.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I urge this noble House to approve these nominees. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I see a very youthful face and I am attracted to it. I give you the Floor, Honourable Member.

HON. REV. SAMA I. SANDY I am youthful indeed. I hail from Constituency 080, Bo District. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start my contribution by thanking His Excellency the President, for considering our brothers. These were nominated by the President not because of sentiments, but the nomination was based on merit. This is a testament to Government's commitment towards the transformation of this

country. These gentlemen have the pedigree and the picador to man the offices they have been nominated to serve. I have no doubt in their ability to deliver. Personally, I know two of these nominees and they are my political mentors. One of them is Dr Prince Alex Harding. He is a political five star general and a man with an outstanding track record in governance. He is a man who when he says this, it comes to pass. I could remember just after the elections, he said we have won the elections and it came to pass. He is our 'Amskachi.' If you heard somebody mentions the name 'Amskachi' in those days, he/she was referring to a football dribbler who dribbles to the goal.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go the Secretary-General of the SLPP, Barrister Umaru Napoleon Koroma. This name depicts reliability and capability. He has all it takes to make things happen. I have no doubt in him at all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have known Dr Samuel S. Jibao, proposed Commissioner-General, National Revenue Authority Dr Jibao, for years. When I was a small boy, Dr Samuel S. Jibao prepared me for the O' Level exams. I have absolute trust in him because he has all it takes to make the NRA what it was intentionally established to accomplish.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I thought you were youthful [*Laughter*].

HON. REV. SAMA I. SANDY: Mr Speaker, I am a replica of Honourable Chernor R.M. Bah. Maybe my looks deceived you. We have to be sincere with ourselves. We should not be criticising because we want to satisfy our political leadership. I want to inform all and sundry that these gentlemen seated here are people every Sierra Leonean can rely on to do what they have been asked to do.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let us join hands together as the people's representatives, not as political parties representatives, and approve these fine gentlemen for the betterment of Sierra Leone. God bless you all.

THE SPEAKER: I really thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I do not think there are new accolades to be showered. I want to believe you have exhausted all the superlatives you need today. That being the case, I will now wind up the debate. I want to invite the Acting Leader of the Opposition to wind up.

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO [*Deputy Leader of the Opposition*]: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am going to be very brief because I have a call at State House and that calling is very important. If the Honourable Dr Prince Harding knew that a day like this would come, he and Daramy would not have gone to my school to disturb our students. The Speaker is from that same school. These boys used to go to the UCC to cause trouble. The Minister of Finance is also from that school [*Laughter*].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will start with Mr Mohamed Haji-Kella, proposed Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Gender & Children's Affairs. It is so unfair for those of us who are Members of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, and who are coincidentally Members of the whole House to come here without offering at least a word in favour of Mr Mohamed Haji Kella. He is the proposed Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs. The point has been made in many quarters about that Ministry. Without wasting time, I wish Mr Mohamed Haji Kella good luck. I am very certain that when you go to that Ministry, you will exhibit your prowess and capabilities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Prince Alex Harding. This man deserves this nomination. Dr Prince Alex Harding knows that when the Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo says something, he means it. I monitored him closely when he was Minister of Transport and Communications, and it is this Communication that qualifies him for this present position. He performed remarkably well during those days. I must state here in debates of this nature, when people from the Opposition Bench make statements, the statements have more credibility than those who are fighting for symbols. I will never go to Dr Prince Alex Harding for party symbol, but he will remain to be my friend. We have been friends for a very long time. I congratulate him in advance and thank him for continuing serving this country. You undertook two main programmes in your life and I followed them closely. First, the late President Ahmed Tejan Kabba was not interested in the Presidency and you put him under considerable pressure until he agreed. Then of course, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio was not too keen when he left the army, but you played a major role; and today, he is the President of this Republic.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Joseph Simon Kapuwa, proposed Director-General, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation. If approved by this House, he is going to head that Cooperation. I was interested in the SLBC principally because it is part of the efforts to end the war in Sierra Leone. When I was Minister of Information and Communications, the United Nations invited me to be part of the Security Council to discuss the peace process in Sierra Leone. I do not think many of you will go to the Security Council. I sat there and I was asked how we disseminated information? I told them we had a national broadcaster, which is the SLBS then. But of course, the United Nations Radio Station was also here. They said supposed we merge the two together and provide the necessary funds? I said that is well and good and that was why Ban Ki-moon came to this country for the purposes of commissioning the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Cooperation. Mr Joseph Simon Kapuwa is a young man who is very academic in his own right. He is a journalist and a lawyer in his own right. This means he belongs to the category of people whom we have mentored very well. I congratulate him in advance. I have no doubt in his ability to perform remarkably well. If you do not perform, I will go there and give you few lashes. I am however pretty sure that you will perform.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Dr Samuel S. Jibao has been nominated to serve as Commissioner-General of the National Revenue Authority. When I went home yesterday, I took the Committee report and my last daughter, who is about 11 years old, saw it and said papa this man here perform very well. Well, the Speaker and I have done wonderful things together, including the writing of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. So my daughter said, daddy this is my friend's father. I asked her, how did you know? And she said, you attended the same school. My wife said, 'oh yes.' And my daughter said, daddy, if you are going to talk about him again in that House, say good things about him. I will invite Mrs Jibao to come to the House for a weekend. When I was listening to him, he was very eloquent and he responded to the questions in a very eloquent manner. He is unlike the people you would ask questions and they begin to dilly dallying. I had no doubt because he was au fait with the topics. Therefore, I am very confident that once he goes to the NRA, he will perform very well. The point has been made that the NRA is pivotal to the development of this country and I hold that view as well. I am sure the Honourable

Deputy Leader of Government Business, Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma, will also hold that view. To us, it is very important.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other point I want to talk about has to do with Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma. When we created the Falaba District, I was asking questions who are going to constitute the Falaba academically? Somebody said, they have few academics and somebody mentioned Koroma's name. Then of course, we created the Falaba District and today he is a Member of that District. His own people said very good things about him. I am not going to waste my time about whether he was the Secretary General at the time, but they won the elections when he was the Secretary General of the SLPP.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Brig. Gen. [Rtd] John A. O. Jah-Tucker, proposed National Security Coordinator, Office of National Security. He was a friend of mine and has always been my friend. I have a background in the military because Mr Amadu Kargbo and Ben Kargbo [who was a goalkeeper for Sierra Leone], were my younger brothers. They went to the same military academy with Mr Jah Tucker. Mr Jah Tucker was a great friend of mine. Unfortunately, we met more frequently at the garage, where we usually repair our old vehicles. Anytime we met there, we would sit together whilst the mechanic would try to do his best to fix our cars. We would be busy exchanging ideas. He is a fine gentleman who is capable of performing duties assigned to him. I am very certain that when he goes to his new institution, which is very pivotal to the security of this country, he will perform remarkably well. He is a very modest man. I know that those who have been in that office have performed a remarkable job. Therefore, go and join them in good faith. That is something many people will not do. Some people pretend as if they can go and start all over again. He is not going to start all over again. He is going to continue from where he found them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, time is against us and we have to rush to see the President of this Republic. I want to make one point very clear that the nominees were well chosen by my own estimation. If that was not the case, Mr Speaker, I would have said so without hesitation. On that note, I ask that we approve these fine nominees before us. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Acting Leader of the Opposition for his great contribution to the debate. I now call on the Leader of Government Business to conclude the debate.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS [*Leader of Government Business*]: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would want to thank my colleagues, especially those who took part in this debate. I think it has being a good debate and it is very clear that the President has provided us with very good nominees. As Leader of Government Business, I do not like to take chances at all. For every word or statement made in this House, it goes beyond Sierra Leone. That is why I would always like to make clarifications. In today's case, I want to specifically talk about Mr Ibrahim Brima Swaray, proposed Chief Executive, National Public Procurement Authority. One of our colleague Honourable Members on the other side made a statement that in fact he was indicted by Parliament. In other words, the Honourable Member was saying that Mr Ibrahim Brima Swaray was not qualified. Indeed there was a Public Accounts Committee meeting that looked into the Auditor General's Report on the use of Ebola funds. As stated last Friday during the Presidential debate, the Leader of the Opposition and I were more or less arguing about the President's intention to amend the Constitution to give the Anti-Corruption Commission more powers to investigate or begin to initiate investigation on issues relating to the Auditor's General Reports that have been laid in this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when those people appeared before the Public Accounts Committee, the actual culprits were left roaming the streets of Freetown as freemen and those at the peripheral were the ones the Committee believed were culpable. But I tell you something because of what the Committee did, this is a report from no other person, but Mr Arrow John Bockarie, the Deputy Attorney General and Minister of Justice. I want the public to understand that indeed the nominee we have before us is a person without blemish character. With your leave, Mr Speaker, I read: **"Those that were subject to the investigation of Parliament, were not accorded the opportunity to be represented by counsel to protect them on certain critical questions on issues that may be put to them or otherwise, nor did they have the requisite competence of**

trained counsel to answer the questions that were put to them. Having stated the above, it is clear that while the advice from the office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice was yet to be issued to ensure compliance with the provisions of Section 93 of the Constitution, these officers have already been penalised by their respective line ministries purportedly implementing the recommendations of Parliament prematurely without any reference to the Office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice who is the Constitutional Legal Adviser to the Government in breach of the provisions of Section 64 of the Constitution. As such, the punishment being implemented against these officials is premature, unprecedented and amount to subjecting them to double jeopardy. In the circumstance and in view of their present predicament, I recommend that their circumstances and present status be reviewed.”

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is from the then Deputy Minister on behalf of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice. Mr Speaker, for a colleague to actually bring up an issue that was actually condemned by your own former Minister, I do not think that was fair enough. I would now come back to the nominees proper.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have distinguished gentlemen before us. These are people who have integrity and they are well-educated. A lot has been said about them and I need not go back to what has been said. The only thing I would want them to understand is that the development of Sierra Leone and the success of the President's 'New Direction' rest with these nominees. Last week or the week after that, this Honourable House approved ministerial nominees. Today, you are before us and you are going to be approved for various positions. You are the technocrats that are going there to support the Ministers. Like what other speakers have said, do not let the people of this country down. Failure is not an option and His Excellency the President is in a worry to develop this country. I want to appeal to you to continue to take the good example of Dr Prince Alex Harding, who has boldly said that he was going there to depoliticise that institution. So, I will call on all of the other nominees to do same.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to appeal to Mr Joseph Simon Kapuwa, proposed Director-General, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation to ensure that the SLBC remains a public broadcaster and not a political mouth piece. We in the SLPP do not need the SLBC as the mouth piece of the SLPP. It should remain a public broadcaster.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I must say that all other nominees are highly qualified. Having said that, be it resolved that the Fifth Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agree to]

[Motion of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service has been ratified].

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I now have the pleasure and duty to extend, on behalf of the entire House, my warmest congratulations and felicitations to the Presidential nominees who have just been approved for appointment to the various offices. We have every confidence that the trust and confidence that the President has in these nominees is being reaffirmed by the approval you have just given to these nominees. I sincerely hope that all of them would live up to the expectations of His Excellency and this House; and indeed, to the expectation of the general public. We wish you well in your new assignments. We remain quite confident that you will discharge your onerous responsibilities to the best of your abilities and to the admiration of all of us. We believe you will not let us down.

Having said that, Honourable Members, let me say here and now for those of you who may not know, today is World Environment Day and we are part of the International Community commemorating this important event. There is a new movement in Sierra Leone called 'Land that We Love.' They have extended to all of you, Members of Parliament, an invitation to a demonstration for all of us to see the extent of degradation of the environment that this Nation has suffered. I know that time is far gone and most of us are fasting. So, I will recommend to the 'Land that We Love' to kindly consider postponing the demonstration that they had wanted to do for all of us in Committee Room 1 to our next adjourned date, so that we will actually have an opportunity, especially for those of us in the city area who are not

privity to the extent of devastation and deforestation that this country has suffered to see first-hand film what deforestation is doing to our environment and to this country. I will implore you on that day to please make it a duty to attend that demonstration. It is an eye opener. For me, certainly it was and I want to believe it will be for you as well. So, I will not disturb you today by saying let us go down to Committee Room 1 and make it a duty as it is a very important topic that we must pay attention to.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our environment is being destroyed. The deforestation is beyond imagination and you should see it yourself to believe what is happening to our dear country. So, let us postpone that important event to our next adjourned date, which I hope is going to be on Tuesday. But before I make that announcement, I would call on the Table Clerks to tell us if there is any announcement.

Honourable Members, I know we still have on the Order Paper the Announcement of Sessional Committees. I want to crave your indulgence to allow this particular item to be postponed to the next sitting of Parliament to give us an opportunity to revisit the composition of these Select Committees. It is better that we come to the House with a list of Committees and their membership that will at least meet the general commendation than to come here with a list that might ignite debate or provoke controversy. So, I really want to appeal that we are buying time in order to do a better job by the time.

Honourable Members, I want to recognise the Honourable Dr Kandeh Kolleh Yumkella. I think he stood up a little while ago.

HON. DR KANDEH KOLLEH YUMKELLA [*Leader of the NGC*]: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O. 23. It is the first time I am trying it. I hope I am correct in using it. It is a personal matter. When I left Kychum to Freetown yesterday, I was thinking about two things which I want to bring to your attention. The first one has to do with those of us who are observing the month of Ramadan. We were wondering whether we would have the last week available, so that we can go to our constituencies to be with our people up to the time of the Prayer. Secondly, I want to plead if we can get a sense of the parliamentary calendar up to July. Some people

are telling us that normally Parliament goes on recess for about a month and half. For planning purposes, some of us are trying to know what the date would be, so that we work towards managing our time.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to appeal to my colleagues who are Members of various committees to ensure that we receive documents early enough, so that we can do due diligence as it is part of our oversight responsibilities. Getting documents at short notice gives us problem in terms of verifying the information contained in those documents. Those are the issues I wanted to bring to this House. Probably, other colleagues may have similar questions in mind. Thank you Sir.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. I think the answers to the questions and concerns you have raised would be made available at the next adjourned date. Let me restate here that with the composition of the Parliamentary Service Commission today, it is proposed that the Commission will hold its first meeting on Friday, at 11:00 a.m. to begin the serious business of dealing with its mandate.

HON. MOHAMED M. KALOKOH: Mr Speaker, I rise on S.O. 23. I want to notify this Honourable House an issue that is very touching. On the 1st June, 2018, the storm that took place in this country affected part of my Constituency in the Bombali District, Magbinteh Section. That unfortunate situation rendered over 1,000 inhabitants homeless. In fact, over 150 houses were destroyed and the assessment is ongoing. As at yesterday, we have recorded about 1,032 inhabitants. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I am sure the entire House will wish to commiserate with the Honourable Member for that loss suffered by his constituents. I see two more Honourable Members wanting to take the Floor.

HON. AMHED S. TURAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise on S.O. 23. On the same date my colleague experienced that calamity, the storm also destroyed some houses in my Constituency and over 1,000 people are currently homeless. Mr Speaker, over 200 houses were affected. On that note, I want to crave the indulgence of this House to provide assistance for the affected people in my

constituency. We are all aware that those places are vulnerable. In fact, it is very difficult for the people to provide daily meals. My Constituency is 073 and constitutes Mamamah, Mile 36, Mile 38 and its environs. If you are using that road, you will see examples. Even though Red Cross have gone there and conducted surveys, but that will take a very long time and our people are suffering. This is my plea, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for the explanation. I am sure I am speaking on behalf of the entirety of the House when I say that we commiserate with him and his constituents and those who have relatives who may have been adversely affected by the storm. Please extend your generosity to the Honourable Members and their constituents.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at: 4:05 p.m. and was adjourned to Tuesday, 12th June, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.]