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**PRESS RELEASE**

**PARLIAMENT APPROVES HON. JUSUFU B. MANSARAY & 10 OTHERS**

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Tuesday 4th December 2018 debated and unanimously approved the Twentieth Report of its Committee on Appointments and the Public Service by ratifying the nomination of Hon. J.B Mansaray and Ten other political appointees to serve in various high offices of State.

In his closing remarks, the Rt. Hon. Speaker, Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu congratulated the nominees, adding that he had no doubt that the nominees have what it takes to make a difference in their new capacities. He also encouraged them to use their expertise to transform those institutions, saying “we wish you well, and we know you are going to live up to the confidence reposed in you by His Excellency”.

The following presidential nominees were approved by Parliament:

- i. Mr. Buffy Bailor-Chairman, Board of Directors, Rokel Commercial Bank Limited
- ii. Ms. Yeama Sarah Thompson-Commissioner, Right to Access Information Commission
- iii. Mr. Biah Yormah Idriss-Commissioner, Right to Access information Commission
- iv. Hon. Jusufu Barry Mansaray-Member, National Telecommunication Commission
- v. Mr. Joseph Abass Sannoh-Member, National Telecommunication Commission
- vi. Mr. Paul Square-Member, National Telecommunication Commission
- vii. Mr. Robert Kondema Kargbo-Member, National Telecommunication Commission
- viii. Mr. Alphan Tejan Kella-Pharmaceutical-Specialist, National Medical Supplies Agency
- ix. Mr. Alhassan Kamara-Civil Society-Representative, National Medical Supplies Agency
- x. Mr. Robert Sheku Abdullai-Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank and

xi. Mr. Sahr Foa Matturi-Member, Board of Directors, National Minerals Agency

Contributing to the debate, Hon. Daniel B. Koroma commended President Bio for having good eyes to choose the best persons whom in his belief would aid him achieve his desired objectives. However, he raised concern that Sierra Leone has only five state-owned profit making enterprises, asking a rhetorical question “is government good at doing business?”. He encouraged other state-owned enterprises, especially Rokel Commercial Bank (RCB) to step up in making more profit. “If Sierra Leone Commercial Bank is making profit, why not RCB,” he asked. He further raised concerns that the cost of communication in Liberia is 500% less than the one in Sierra Leone, whilst calling on the new Commissioners to NATCOM to work very hard in making sure that the consumers benefit more from every GSM operator in the country. He also recognized Hon. J.B. Mansaray as a mentor in the Fourth Parliament, calling on him as a Commissioner to NATCOM to ensure that top-up cards are sold at the same price as in Liberia because Sierra Leone has a bigger market.

On the other hand, Hon. Francis Kai-Samba encouraged politicians to support institutions, especially banks to grow because the country could not move without strong Institutions. He reiterated that consumers are complaining enormous acts of corruption by GSM operators in the country, whilst admonishing Commissioners to NATCOM to work assiduously towards protecting the interests of the people.

In rounding up the debate, Acting Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Hassan Sesay advised the nominees to work for Sierra Leone and not for any political party or region, adding that they should work within the framework of the law, for it would guide them in discharging their duties. He also said that it is incumbent on them to prove the President and Parliament right in nominating and approving their appointments respectively.

In concluding the debate, Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mohamed Sidie Tunis informed the Houses that the President has women in mind and as such he would continue to appoint more women to important positions in governance, adding that he had no doubt in the capacity of the nominees to perform. “All our nominees are highly qualified,” he assured. He said the House of Parliament is always open to them if they need help in the execution of their duties.

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