



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIRST SESSION - FOURTH MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2019**

*SESSION – 2018/2019*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMETARY DEBATES**

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Fourth 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, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.

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*THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE*

**Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House**

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

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**Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.**

**I. PRAYERS**

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

*[The House met at 10:40 a.m. at Sierra Leone Bank Complex, Kingtom]*

*[The Deputy Speaker, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas in the Chair]*

The House was called to Order

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**II CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2019.**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. As usual, we shall skip Pages 1 to 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? If there is no correction or amendment, could somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 as presented?

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

**HON. ALICE J. KUMABEH:** I so second.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April has been adopted]*

**III. PAPERS LAID**

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE – HON. LAHAI MARAH

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me use this opportunity to appreciate the Leader of Government Business, Honourable Sidie M. Tunis for making sure that the Technical Audit Report is brought to this House *[Applause]*. I want to commend him because that is a leadership role in terms of protecting the dignity of Parliament. The various Ministries, Departments and Agencies [MDAs] should know that Members of Parliament are united. Mr Speaker, this Report is a property of Parliament with the mandate, authority or responsibility to look into audits Reports.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Section 95 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone clearly states: **"Any act or omission which obstructs or impedes Parliament in the performance of its functions, or which obstructs or impedes any Member of**

**Parliament, or which tends either directly or indirectly, to produce such a result shall be a contempt of Parliament.”** If you go to Section 96, it clearly states that contempt of Parliament is a criminal offence. Therefore, let me use this opportunity to send strong message to those MDAs that may want to obstruct the functions of Parliament either directly or indirectly to take note of the consequences.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Audit Service Sierra Leone raised issues bothering on compliance. MDAs are expected to follow laid down rules, regulations or laws that govern their institutions. If those laws are not followed, Audit Service Sierra Leone will continue to raise issues. Mr Speaker, Section 119[4] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, clearly states that the Auditor-General shall submit a Report not to the Minister of Finance, but to Parliament. However, the Auditor General submitted the Report to the Ministry of Finance to launch the Report. To us, it was a breach of procedure. Therefore, Mr Speaker, we rely on your authority to protect this House. Also, if you go to Standing Orders 70[6d], it clearly states: **“The Public Accounts Committee deals with the Auditor-General’s Report and Special Reports...”** like this Technical Audit Report. It is a Special Audit Report of the Auditor General.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to clearly state here that laying this Report today does not in any way make it a public document because Report is still inconclusive until the PAC tables its Report. In other words, after laying it, Parliament will take a decision to submit it to the PAC for further deliberations. Therefore, it is not yet a public document. This is not the first Special Audit Report we have received in this House. For instance, we have received the Ebola Audit Report, which was also a Special Audit Report.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to commend the Auditor General because she is doing well but they should adhere to procedures as Audit Service Sierra Leone. On that note, Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the following documents:

[a] Report on the Technical Audit of Social Security, Tele-Communication, Civil Works and Energy Sectors, Volume I, Full Report, March 2019; and

[b] Report on the Technical Audit of Social Security, Tele-Communication, Civil Works and Energy Sectors, Volume II Appendices, March, 2019.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Honourable Member. I would at this stage join my colleague in sending a very strong message. I would first and foremost start by issuing a warning to the Auditor General, so that in the future when a Report is prepared by her office, except probably for the President, she should ensure that the Report is submitted to Parliament and not the Minister of Finance *[Applause]*. It is not the business of the Minister of Finance to receive the Auditor General's Report. That is why we are having this complication today. The law is the law and it is either holy kept or holy sacrificed *[Applause]*. I do not want MDAs to take advantage of our internal issues. Sometimes we quarrel here and there, but that is for Parliament. It is part of us to quarrel, but we do not want any MDA to take advantage of that. You should get use to the internal squabbles in Parliament because it is our nature, but MDAs should not take advantage of that.

Honourable Members, the Ministry of Finance has nothing to do with the Auditor General's Report until it is submitted to Parliament. This particular Special Report is going to be looked into by the Public Accounts Committee and we will provide the necessary recommendations in our Report, which will be tabled before this House. In the circumstances, I am warning every MDA in the Republic of Sierra Leone to keep off from this Report, otherwise if you obstruct the work of Parliament, then you will be held for contempt and we intend pursuing that to the fullest. Like I said, we must be a Nation of laws; otherwise we would just jump into lawlessness. If anybody can get access to any documents and begin to run commentaries on them, then I think we will be in a very serious problem. I crave the indulgence of MDAs to adhere to this plea. Of course, I have spoken to the Commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission [ACC] to stay put until we would have looked into this particular Report and arrive at conclusions. That is our job and you have to allow us to do our job.

#### **IV. TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE HONOURABLE MOMODU ESKIMO MANSARAY, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCY 043, KOINADUGU DISTRICT.**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I said that we are going to conclude this sitting in 30 minutes. Each speaker should take not more than two minutes. You have to be very brief because we have other issues to look into. Honourable Members, I will give preference to Members of Parliament from Koinadugu and Falaba.

**HON. CHARLES O. ABDULAI:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all of us are aware that we have lost a colleague whom we have been here almost a year now. Personally, the late man was very passionate about his constituents. He was a decent character and he was an introvert, but very friendly.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is a shock to this House to have lost a noble character of that nature. Besides being a politician, with my short moments of staying in Parliament and with the little interaction I had with him, I can say he was very friendly and love for his people. On behalf of this House, I want to extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. As a Member of Parliament, I do not know when my time will come. This is a warning to all of us and I want to admonish all of us to be our brothers and sisters keepers. If the late man had been unfriendly, his death would have sent a signal to this House.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to wish the late man a peaceful rest. I want to say goodbye to the late man and take your rest my brother. Thank you very much.

**HON. KUSAN SESAY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Today is another sad day for the people of Koinadugu District, especially Wara-Wara Bafodea. Why did I say that? Honourable Eskimo was a very tolerant Member of Parliament. For the past one year, Honourable Eskimo has been very tolerant to his constituents. He proved to be a father, a brother, an uncle and a great friend.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I came to know Honourable Eskimo when he was a Youth Leader in that Chiefdom. That is why leaders are born, but not created. The late

Honourable Eskimo was born to be a leader. He served that Chieftdom for many years and during his tenure of Office as Youth Leader, he developed lot of youths. He came to Kabala and volunteered to be a local journalist. He was presenting a popular programme called S.O. [2] 'make you complain.' If you go to Kabala today, you will hear little children on the streets saying 'make you complain.' Today, the entire District, especially the towns around Kabala are mourning him. Today, Honourable Eskimo is gone. The family is seated over there. The children, wife, uncles and brothers are all here. We know what it takes for someone to become a Member of Parliament. Today, he is gone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will say this again, that the history of Koinadugu will not complete if we fail to mention the late Honourable Eskimo Mansaray because he has done a lot for that district [*Applause*]. He has done a lot for Falaba. May the Almighty Allah grant him peace.

**HON. SIRAJIN M. R. KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I was very close to the late man. As you can see, this was his seat and I could remember that he debated twice and on each occasion, he always talked to me first. I have a short poem and may be that will bring about courage and comfort in time of bereavement, especially so when I know the wife and the kids are here... - [*Problem with the audio*].

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** The memories will always linger in their minds because even as we speak when you were in the sick bed, you said: "ah dae fen motoka fo kerr dem pikin dem go fo sit exams," S.O. [2]. May the Lord remember you for your dedicated services. In our history as politicians and because of your dedicated service to this Nation in the Private Sector, in the Public Service, we will never forget you. As a master of expression in the service of Journalism, may the Lord have mercy on him and may his soul rest in perfect peace. We bow before you with respect for what you did. Oh death! Why have you done this to us? I salute you my brother and rest in perfect peace. To the bereaved family, 'by now wuna fo hol hart, wuna fight di right course wae wuna pikin bin dae fight. Dis man na man wae serve as Leader, wuna tek courage, na only unity go mek wuna survive as a family, S. O. [2]. As the saying goes, 'united we

stand and divided we fall. The late Honourable Member was very sincere and he served humanity with dedication.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a lesson for all of us. We came into this World with nothing, so we shall return with nothing. We have said so many nice things about our brother. It is good to say good things, but death is moving around us like a roaring Lion. We were sure that your mother will give birth to you on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September but death nobody is sure of it but we Christians are assured of death, death is what we believe in because when you live you must die.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have many good things to say about the late Honourable Member, but on behalf of the Leadership of the Sierra Leone People's Party [SLPP], our comrades on the other side of the House, we share this grief with you today. If we are to vote today in the Chambers, Mr Speaker or the Clerk will call by constituencies, if I happen to be the Clerk to conduct secret ballot elections in the Chambers, I am sure this man is with us in spirit and some of us believe he is seated here. Mr Speaker, to prove that the late Honourable Eskimo Mansaray is with us today, I call on the Honourable Member from Koinadugu District, Honourable Momodu Eskimo Mansaray, Member of Parliament for Constituency 043 to come and vote. Honourable Eskimo Mansaray please cast your vote. There is silence and no response from him. This means he has gone, but he is in the hands of his father.

Mr Speaker, Honourable members, I want to state here that death is inevitable. As politicians, we can have our differences in terms of political principles, but we can never forget you in a worry. We will always think about your hard work and we will always emulate you because you were very hard working. I salute again and thank you all.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** I want to start this very brief tribute by recognising the fact and to assure the family of the late Honourable Momodu Eskimo Mansaray that their son, brother and husband had very good friends here. I also want to make it very clear that we do not forget the role played by Members of Parliament after the demise of the late Honourable Momodu Eskimo Mansaray. That is what we call friendship. Mr Speaker, the oneness and cohesiveness we saw after the death of the late Honourable

Member is unprecedented. This is a clear indication that this is how Members of Parliament should interact. Again, I want to assure you that your late relative had very good friends here.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the points have been made that the late Honourable Momodu Eskimo Mansaray was a man of the people, a man who related with his people, and a man who was concerned about the future of his own people and once he came to Parliament, he interacted with his own friends not only Members of his own Party, but also Members of the SLPP. I want to thank the Leader for using his ability to organise Members of our Party for the purposes of ensuring that we recognise the death of a very important Member of our party.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I first came across this young man years back. I was engaged in what we call the outreach programme for the All Peoples Congress Party [APC], when we used to travel from place to place to explain to the people about the policies of the Government. He was at the time broadcasting on radio. Being a journalist myself, I always saw him as somebody who had a future in this country. He was somebody who was always able to put almost everything together, especially activities that have to do with the development of his community.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this young man sent his test result to me before he died. This is the very first time somebody who was about to die sent his own test result about his own death. I simply said God will help you. I did not know that it was as serious as we are talking about it now. It was quite serious once and the following day, I heard that Honourable Momodu Eskimo Mansaray had passed on. Again, on behalf of our party seated on this side, we would like to continue to assure the family members of the late Honourable Member that we will never forget him and that you are always part and parcel of us, both in Freetown and in Bafodea, we will assure you that whenever we visit your homes, we will stop by to say hello to you and ask about the welfare of children. Because this is very important aspect of our culture, we have to make sure that even when a friend had died, he should not be forgotten in a worry.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to use this opportunity to thank you very much and to also wish that Honourable Eskimo lives a very peaceful life in the world hereafter. I also wish that the family will live a good life as well. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M BAH** [*Leader of the Opposition*]: Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to thank those who have made their contributions and even those who have not had the opportunity to do so. I am sure if there was enough time, every Member would have wanted to contribute. Honourable Mustapha M. Sellu wanted to take the Floor few minutes ago because he was with us at the Hospital the other day. However, the Acting Leader of Government Business made a statement for and on behalf of Members of that side and Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo has done same for us on this side.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is just an information to colleagues because Honourable Williams was also very forceful. I was following him on the forum about the urgency. They even wanted to keep the Leadership out of this, but unfortunately, you cannot keep the Leadership out of this. I just want to inform you that after consultations yesterday between the Acting Leader of Government Business and I, we have had the blessing of the Speaker through the Clerk to ensure that our obligations as Members of Parliament are organised in a more coordinated fashion, so as to ensure that our respects are maintained [*Applause*]. I thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella wanted to know about the programmes. Well, we have not yet confirmed, but after consultations with the family, I am sure we will be in a better position to know by Thursday. I thank you very much [*Applause*]

**THE SPEAKER:** Whenever we have a situation like this, the demise of any brother then we have a particular adjournment for the Sittings, please you have a letter in your pigeon hole, to communicate of the adjourned Sittings [*Applause*]. I do not want Honourable Members to surprise at all. To the family, on behalf of the House of Parliament, I want to sympathise with you for the loss of a father, a husband and the loss of a brother. He was a very strategic and strong Member of this House. In fact, he

called himself the only Eskimo of Africa and he was a great man. The late Honourable Momodu Eskimo Mansaray loved his people so much. Whenever he stood to address this House, he always talked about his people. This is a very great loss to this Nation, but please when you grieve, know that it is God's wish. We love him, but God loves him more. So, take heart. It is time now that I call on Honourable Members to observe a minute of silence *[A minute of silence was observed]*. May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace. I now ask family members to leave *[Applause]*.

Honourable Members and members of the Fourth Estate, I want to reiterate the position of Parliament. The Technical Audit Reports have been tabled and by Section 95 of the Public Financial Management [PFM] Act, the document can now be published in the Gazette. It has become a public document, but until Parliament, through the Public Accounts Committee [PAC], looks at the recommendations made by the auditors, no Ministry, Department or Agency [MDA] can take action on this document *[Applause]*. Please, you have to allow Parliament to do its work.

In that regard, Honourable Members, all MDAs are warned to keep off from this document, otherwise, whatever MDA crosses our path, it will be in contempt of Parliament. I thank you very much.

Honourable Members, I have just given instructions to the Clerks-At-The-Table to ensure that the Motion we have passed is taken to the Ministry of Finance today. I have told him that we are serious about it because money matters are serious matters and are not matters of fancy.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*[The House rose at 11:35 a.m. and was adjourned to Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.]*