



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION - THIRD MEETING

THURSDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY, 2019

SESSION – 2018/2019



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: I

NUMBER: 49

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Thursday, 7th February, 2019.

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

PROPOSER: HON SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON ROSEMARIE BANGURA

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT 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 – THIRD MEETING OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

Thursday, 7th February, 2019.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 2.45 p.m. at Bank Complex, Kingtom, Freetown]

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

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY 24TH JANUARY, 2019

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting held on Thursday, 24th January, 2019. As usual, we shall skip the first five pages that bear the names of Members of Parliament.

HON. RTD [CAPT] HAFIJU KANJA: Mr Speaker, No.4 of Page 5. My surname is not properly spelt. Instead of K-a-n-j-a it is K-a-n-j-i-a. It should be K-a-n-j-a.

THE SPEAKER: Noted, Honourable Member.

HON. ABUBAKARR FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, we do not have copies of the record of Votes and Proceedings.

THE SPEAKER: Did you check your pigeon hole this morning? I call on the Clerks-At-The-Table to provide more copies. Please provide a copy to the Honourable Paramount Chief Member of Parliament. I am supposed some of you came here directly and you forgot to collect your copies from your pigeon holes. Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? Page 11? Page 12? Page 13? If there is no further amendment or correction, would somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 24th January, 2019 as amended?

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

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

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting held on Thursday, 24th January, 2019 has been adopted as amended]

III. PAPERS LAID

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS [*Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following documents in my capacity as Leader of Government Business:

Resolution: Women, Peace and Security Agenda

[a] The Anti-Corruption Commission [Asset Declaration] Regulations, 2019

[b] The Anti-Corruption Act, 2008 [Act No.12 of 2008]

[Statutory Instrument No.3 of 2019]

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I rise on S.O. 25 to give a Notice of Motion to enable us debate the Statutory Instrument of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act of 2008 that has just been laid by the Leader of Government Business. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Which Standing Order did you cite, Honourable Member?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, S.O. 25.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The Motion to debate the Statutory Instrument of the Anti-Corruption Commission has been carried]

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Mr Speaker, I also stand on S.O. 25[1] to give Notice of Motion, so that we can debate the document titled: 'The Resolution for Women, Peace and Security Agenda. I thank you.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The Motion to debate the Resolution: women, Peace and Security Agenda has been carried]

THE SPEAKER: To the best of my knowledge, this makes the third Instrument that has been laid for which we have had Notice for a Debate. So, we should not just push them to gather dust, we hope at some point the debate will take place.

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

PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. HASSAN A. SESAY

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand to amend the Order Paper. Under item IV, I want the Seconder to be Honourable Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella, do you have any problem with that?

HON. DR KANDEH YUMKELLA: Mr Speaker, I am a Member of the Committee, but I was not present at the interview.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member is correct. In that case, I would like the seconder to be Honourable Rosemary Bangura [*Applause*].

Suspension of S.O. 5[2]

HON SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Twenty-Seventh Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service:

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service that is charged with the responsibility of vetting Presidential nominees and selecting the most fitted and qualified persons to serve in public offices in the Republic of Sierra Leone, met on Tuesday, 5th February, 2019 and interviewed ten Presidential nominees for the following appointments:

[i] Member, Minerals Advisory Board;

[ii] Director, Financial Intelligence Unit;

[iii] Board Chairman, National Protected Area Authority;

[iv] Board Member, Environment Protection Agency [EPA] Board;

[v] Member, National Youth Commission; and

[vi] Five Members, Board of Trustees, National Social Security & Insurance Trust [NASSIT].

2. PROCEDURE:

The Committee relied on specified documents provided by the nominees and other information obtained from the general public to conduct the hearings. The Committee ensured that the nominees have the relevant qualifications and necessary backup experience to man such important offices of state. Other probing questions put to the nominees covered wide ranging issues pertaining, particularly to their track records in other pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a successful and nationally productive tenure for the socio-economic development of Sierra Leone. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were closely looked into by the Committee.

3. [Thirtieth Sitting of the Committee on Tuesday 5th February, 2019]

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

[i] Hon. P.C. Charles Caulker, proposed Member, Minerals Advisory Board

Hon. P.C. Charles Caulker is a former Honourable Paramount Chief Member of Parliament representing the Moyamba District [1996 – 2007]. Chief Caulker, as he is fondly called, has served a term on the Minerals Advisory Board and has been nominated for a second term. The Honourable Paramount Chief was commended across party lines as appropriately qualified for his proposed appointment. In his interview, Honourable P.C Caulker affirmed that having served for a term of three years on the Minerals Advisory Board; he knew exactly what was required of him. He promised to work collaboratively with colleague Board members to ensure that they advise the Minister in the best interest of the country.

[ii] Mr Mohamed Kenewui Konneh, proposed Director, Financial Intelligence Unit [FIU]

Mr Mohamed K. Konneh has over 18 years of practical and strategic experience in investigating corruption, procurement fraud, money laundering and protecting good governance. He is currently the Principal Investigating Officer at the African Development Bank [ADB] where he has obtained experience in leading teams to investigate allegations of sanctionable practices including corruption, fraud and tracing

proceeds of illicit funds, etc. Mr Konneh had previously served at the Sierra Leone Anti-Corruption Commission [2000-2009]. Responding to the Committee's inquiries, Mr Konneh said that because of his previous work experience with the Anti-Corruption Commission, he had joined the African Development Bank as a Senior Investigating Officer and later promoted, Principal Investigating Officer. **"My functions as Investigating Officer at the African Development Bank included investigating corruption, fraud, money laundry, and terrorist financing etc.,"** he said.

Reacting to Members concerns about his stance on gender, Mr Konneh said: **"I have respect for team work, I have respect for women and I will work amicably with my Deputy irrespective of his or her gender."**

[iii] Mr Emmanuel Keifala Alieu, proposed Chairman, National Protected Area Authority

Mr Emmanuel K. Alieu was until his retirement in 2017, a Senior Teaching Fellow, Forestry Department, School of Forestry and Horticulture, Njala University College [2009 – 2017]. Mr Allieu had previously served as Acting Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security [2003-2008].

Questioned on the status of the Authority, Mr Emmanuel Alieu said the Authority had been strengthened to something like a project with more resources than ever before. Answering to further questions on the strategies he would use to safeguard the Forest Reserves of this country, Mr Alieu said: **"With the help of my Management and other Directors, we want to bring the strategy of communicating with and sensitising the local communities to protect the Forest Reserves. The main reason for protecting the Forest Reserves is to ensure that we wisely use its resources for sustainable development, meaning that, a country can use its natural resources for national development without jeopardising the chances of the future generations from doing the same. So, we will emphasis on planting not a tree but on planting three trees for every tree cut down."**

Mr Emmanuel Keifala Alieu further said: **"The common mistake the Ministry has always made was the use of the policing method. When you use policing**

method, you do not communicate with local people. Hence the local people do not know why you are policing them. But if we work with the local communities to make bye-laws in their local languages to be enforced by their own local authorities, there would be a greater cooperation and compliance.”

[iv] Professor Gregory Martin Tamba Robert, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Environment Protection Agency [EPA] Board

Professor G.M.T. Robert is an educationist of no mean standing. The learned and able Professor has spent all his life in the field of education teaching/lecturing from secondary to university level. He is currently a lecturer, school of Community Health Sciences, Njala University College, Bo.

The Committee, across Party lines, unanimously accepted the nomination of Professor G.M.T Robert for his proposed appointment because of his work experience, academic qualification and experience. Professor G.M.T Robert promised to look into issues of environmental protection and mitigation by particularly the mining companies.

[v] Mrs Mamie Laura Sellu, proposed Member, National Youth Commission

Mrs Mamie Laura Sellu is the current Head of Customer Service, Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority [EDSA] 2013 to date. Mrs Sellu has previously served in several management positions with Transnational Sierra Leone Limited, Freetown. Mrs Mamie Laura Sellu promised to initiate new ideas on how the Commission that could empower youth to be self-employed and self-reliant. That she said: **“Will keep them away from drugs and crime.”**

[vi] Mr Albert Kobina Walker, proposed Member, Board of Trustees, [NASSIT]

Mr Albert Kobina Walker has a wealth of experience in General Management, Finance, Sales, Customer Service, Operations, Distribution, Value Chain Management, Strategic Planning, Marketing etc. with over 20 years of financial and commercial work experience. He is currently the General Manager of National Petroleum Sierra Leone Ltd.

Answering to Members inquiries, Mr Kobina Walker said: **“I am passionately prepared for my proposed appointment. I believe that NASSIT is playing a very important role in taking care of the retirement benefits and the future happiness of the workers of this country. It is therefore very important that we all put our shoulders to the wheel to work collaboratively with colleague Board Members to ensure that the institution achieves the purpose for which it was established.”**

[vii] Mr Foday Sadique Fofana, proposed Member, Board of Trustees, [NASSIT]

Mr Foday S. Fofana is currently the National President, [NASSIT] Pensioners Association [2016 – date]. He is a retired NASSIT worker whose last position held was that of Head, Administration and Facilities. Mr Foday Fofanah promised to serve to the best of his ability to ensure that [NASSIT] succeeds in line with the His Excellency, the President’s vision to cater for all including pensioners.

[viii] Mr Fayia Musa Tucker, proposed Member, Board of Trustees, [NASSIT]

Mr Fayia Musa Tucker is a professional Accountant and Stock Verifier in the Accountant General’s Department, Ministry of Finance [2014 – date].

Mr Fayia Musa Tucker assured the Committee that he would work with colleague Board Members to address issues relating to investments undertaken by NASSIT, which, he said, has not been encouraging. **“The people’s retirement money has to be protected and cannot be used in very risky ventures in the name of investments.”**

[ix] Mr Osman Pius Conteh, proposed Member, Board of Trustees NASSIT

Mr Osman Pius Conteh is a Senior Underwriting Manager in charge of all technical matters pertaining to the underwriting and issuance of insurances contracts, both local and international at Reliance Insurance.

The Committee unanimously accepted the nomination of Mr Osman Pius Conteh for his proposed appointment. Mr Osman Pius Conteh promised to give his best to ensure that the objectives for which NASSIT was established are achieved in the interest of the country.

[X] Mr Mohamed Salieu Bangura, proposed Member, Board of Trustees, [NASSIT]

Mr Mohamed S. Bangura is an educationist who has spent the better part of his working life in classroom teaching. He has taught his way from primary to secondary school and is currently the Principal of the Muslim Congress Senior Secondary School.

Reacting to the concerns of the Committee, Mr Bangura said that many retired teachers were currently facing enormous challenges about the payment of their benefits. **"We are planning to organise a country wide tour to register teachers with NASSIT numbers awaiting their retirement benefits. NASSIT will have to fast-track the process of taking on board newly recruited teachers who have had their pin codes, including many old teachers who have never had NASSIT membership cards. This will be my main focus in the Board."**

4. THIRTY-FIRST SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2019

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the following nominee was interviewed:

[i] Mr Julius Daniel Mattai, proposed Director General, National Minerals Agency.

Mr Julius Daniel Mattai is a highly qualified and technically multi-skilled professional with profound working knowledge and experience in Geology, Mining and Mineral Exploration, Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing, Management Information Systems, Data and Information Management System, Health Information Systems, Environment and Natural Resources Management and Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Risk Management in the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Liberia and Sierra Leone, etc.

Reacting to the Committee's inquiries, Mr Julius Mattai said: **"I thank God Almighty for this golden opportunity given to me through His Excellency the President. I am a Geologist and I have worked extensively in both the public and private sectors in the UK, Russia, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Furthermore, in 2012, 2013 and 2014, I had the privilege to work at the National Minerals Agency as the Geo-Information Manager, where I helped established the foundation for information management relating to the mines and mineral sector in Sierra Leone. As a Geologist, consultant and Managing Director of my private company over the past seven years, i worked extensively with all the major mining companies in Sierra Leone. I will draw on the wealth of experience gained in all the diverse companies for the success of the National Minerals Agency."**

5. Recommendations

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

[i] Hon. P.C. Charles Caulker, Member, Minerals Advisory Board;

[ii] Mr Emmanuel Keifala Alieu, Chairman, Board of Directors, National Protected area Authority;

[iii] Professor G.M.T. Robert, Member, Board of Directors, Environment Protected Agency [EPA];

[iv] Mr Fayia Musa Tucker, Member, Board of Trustees, National Social Security and Insurance Trust [NASSIT];

[v] Mr Mohamed Salieu Bangura, Member, Board of Trustees, National Social Security and Insurance Trust [NASSIT];

[vi] Mr Osman Pius Conteh, Member, Board of Trustees, National Social Security and Insurance Trust [NASSIT];

[vii] Mr Foday Sadique Fofanah, Member, Board of Trustees, National Social Security and Insurance Trust [NASSIT];

[viii] Mr Albert Kobina Walker, Member, Board of Trustees, National Social Security and Insurance Trust [NASSIT];

[ix] Mr Mohamed Kenewui Konneh, Director, Financial Intelligence Unit;

[x] Ms Mamie Laura Sellu, Member, National Youth Commission; and

[xi] Mr Julius Daniel Mattai, Director-General, National Minerals Agency.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Twenty-Seventh Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the Twenty-Seventh 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: Any seconder?

HON. ROSE MARIE BANGURA: I second the Motion, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed]

HON. ROSE MARIE BANGURA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio for nominating these fine gentlemen and lady for parliamentary approval. Having gone through their resumes, I can say without any iota of doubt that they are all qualified. Therefore, I want to ask this Honourable House for their approval.

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to join the Vice President of the parliamentary Female Caucus for acknowledging the fact that these nominees are qualified for the positions they have been nominated to serve. We have medical doctors, lecturers amongst these nominees. I have no doubt that you can live up to the expectations of the people of this country because you are going there to serve Sierra Leoneans. You are going there to serve the people of this country. The Government is using the tax payers' money to pay your salaries and we know that you are going to work to the best of your ability.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start with Hon. P.C. Charles Caulker, proposed Member, Minerals Advisory Board. He is the Paramount Chief of Bumpeh Chiefdom, a former Member of Parliament and a former Chairman of Council of Paramount Chiefs. I have known this man for couple of years and he was one of my mentors when I entered Parliament in 2005.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have no doubt in Honourable P.C. Charles Caulker's ability to perform. He served in that institution for one term and he is being nominated to serve there again. I know he is capable because he has all the expertise in making sure that Board works effectively. I want to inform this House that he is my constituent and my Paramount Chief in one of the Chiefdoms that I represent as Honourable Member. I want to advise him to keep the fire burning. I know he will do more good things for the people of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Mohamed Kenewui Konneh, proposed Director, Financial Intelligence Unit. When we were interrogating Mr Konneh, I asked him how he would work if he is given a woman as Deputy Director. I was so pleased with the answer he gave and I took him on his words. He said he had respect for women and he would make sure he worked diligently with her 'if at all a woman was going to deputise him.' I have no doubt in him because he has respect for women. Mr Speaker, any man who has respect for women will surely succeed because behind any successful man, there is a strong woman. I also believe that behind any successful Managing Director, there is a woman. I believe that you will work well with the woman who is going to deputise you. Some men usually say they do not like working with women, but you have promised to work with a woman if the opportunity avails itself. Of course, people will say there is no act to find the mind's construction in the face, but the way you answered us on that day, I noticed sincerity and honesty. I know you respect women and I know you will follow your promises. Please work with women if you have women in your various institutions. We are asking for **30%** and if you have a woman in your institution, make sure you bring them together and work with them effectively.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mrs Mamie Laura Sellu, proposed Member, National Youth Commission. Of course, you are a youth, but I want to tell you about the clique boys or the gangs we have in this country. The beach girls are so many and you are going there to represent them. Whatever situation you find the youth, you are going to represent them and we want you to find ways of helping to eradicate some of

the bad things the young people are doing. For some of them, it is not the fault and that is why you are going to represent them in whatever capacity. Some of the young boys have a particular haircut style known as 'Ballottelli.' It is your responsibility to talk to them. Please tell them to change their attitude for the better. The dice is cast and the choice is theirs. I want you to make sure that they are part and parcel of you.

With these few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you and to ask my colleagues to approve your nomination.

HON. REBECCA Y. KAMARA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I did not want to make any comment, but when the name Honourable P.C. Charles Caulker was mentioned, I was touched. I am going to say something about him. I want to state here that we still have good people in Sierra Leone who would want to work and see the progress of this country. There are some Sierra Leoneans who would want to see this country grow from strength to strength and Honourable P.C. Charles Caulker is one of them. I want to implore this House to approve P.C. Charles Caulker. In January, P.C. Charles Caulker and I were part of the delegation that went to the North to investigate certain issues bothering on mining activities. I have some background in the extractives. As we were going, I looked at P.C. Charles Caulker and told the team members that the Paramount Chief was getting tired. I told members not to proceed with that mission. Mr Speaker, P.C. Charles Caulker said we should continue. I was perplexed when he said we should go ahead. He was very strong in his heart because he knew what he was going for.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to reveal to this House that a lot of Sierra Leoneans are stealing our minerals. They are stealing themselves. We have lots of minerals in this country. Some Sierra Leoneans are mining our minerals illegally in remote places. The Paramount Chief said we should put a stop to that and he is ready to support the President in putting a stop to illegal mining. We arrived at the place late in the evening. I saw P.C. Charles Caulker jumping and dancing. If it were some young people, they would have decided to return. There are Sierra Leoneans who do not only love their parties or themselves, but they love this country and they want to see this

country prospers. If all of us put Sierra Leone first and make sure we do the right thing, then we would enjoy the minerals we have in this country.

On this note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I ask Honourable Members to speedily approve all the nominees. Thank you very much.

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: I thank you very much for this opportunity. Mr Speaker, I will start with NASSIT because it is one of the institutions I have fallen in love with. I read on paper that NASSIT intends to invest in students hostels. When I was a student, one of the difficulties we faced was accommodation. I will be very happy if NASSIT implement this proposal to provide accommodation for students. This is going to be a laudable venture.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the problems Sierra Leoneans face is accommodation. I hope when the nominee for NASSIT is approved, he will help to ensure that this plan for accommodation in the urban centers is implemented. Mr Speaker, not all of us can benefit from state lands. I think the State should reserve some lands for low-cost housing projects. Again, not all of us can have a piece of land from the State, but if the State constructs houses for the people who do not earn high income, some of our relatives, friends and family members can benefit from such projects. It is not about giving State land to people who deserve it or people who are lucky, but we have to reserve enough lands to invest in low-cost housing projects. This is because a lot of people are living under very bad conditions in the urban centers. In addition to students' hostels, we also have to look at projects that will benefit the majority of Sierra Leoneans. This is my advice and I want to wish you well. I want to urge this House to approve the NASSIT nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about somebody I have had the opportunity to be his student and colleague. The person is Professor G.M.T. Robert. When I was in his class, we found him to be very intelligent and hardworking. You have to be on time to be able to attend his class. He was always in class. During his days, one of the problems the university was facing was effectiveness. We have a lot of people who are paid, but they do not want to go and teach. Dr G.M.T. Robert was

always an example to students. He was always in class and he taught his lessons very well. I am very happy for giving him this opportunity by the President to serve this nation. Professor Robert is a Chemist and being nominated to serve on the Board of EPA is no mistake. Environmental issues are very important. When a man is destroying his environment, he destroys lives. We do not want people to occupy the Board without doing anything. We want people with the technical know-how to give the right advice to the EPA. I am happy that one of the illustrious sons of Sierra Leone has been nominated to serve in that capacity. If you are looking for somebody who has spent his whole life to serve this nation, I am sure Professor Robert is one of them. I want to urge this House to approve his nomination.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will move to two of my school mates, Mr Mohamed Kenewui Konneh and Mr Julius Daniel Mattai. One of them is my small boy and the other is my 'Kotho. Julius Mattai was a very good student. He was very active in sports. He is a person I know very well he is a very serious person. He is being nominated by His Excellency the President to serve this nation and I know he will perform very well. We want positive changes in this country. This is not just about occupying the chair, but we want to see new things happening, things that will make Sierra Leone a better place for all of us. I would like you to ask yourself at the end of your term what value you have added to that institution. I have no doubt in your ability to perform.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Mohamed Kenewui Konneh. He was my junior and he was very obedient. I wish you well and we spent a lot of hours talking about transforming our country. I am happy you have got this opportunity. I am also grateful to stand here and talk about national interest. This is a golden opportunity for you to also work for your country. So many people of our generation never had this opportunity to serve in that capacity. So, you have to count yourself as lucky to have been nominated by the President. Sierra Leoneans want to see positive change. You do not have to write long speeches explaining the changes that you have implemented. Sierra Leoneans want to feel the change and we should be able to see that change without being told.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure all the nominees are good and they will work for the people of this country. I want to urge this House to approve these nominees to serve this nation. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I will just take one more before we wrap up this debate. We started late and I will limit each speaker to two minutes.

HON. SAA E. LAMINA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you very much for this opportunity. Whenever it comes to nominees in the mining sector, I become passionate. In accordance with Section 61, I want to thank the President, as well as the nominees in anticipation of parliamentary approval. I want this Honorable House to bank on the expertise, the experience of these nominees. I have no iota of doubt that they will all perform.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to specifically comment on the nomination of the NMA Boss, as well as Board member to the EPA. Mr Speaker, since 1930 to now, almost 89 years this Honourable House is yet to adopt an artisanal mining policy. That tells us that the NMA Boss has a huge task. It will surprise him to know that mining used to contribute **24%** to our GDP in this nation. However, it is sad to note that it has dropped down by almost **15%**. This is because there is a ban on the use of excavators as well as bulldozers in the artisanal mining areas.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am not sure whether this Honourable House will frown at charging fees from artisans for them to continue. We are also aware of land degradation. Professor Robert was the man that gave me admission to Njala University fourteen years ago. He is a very hardworking man. He speaks French fluently. I want to remind him that he has a herculean task, a task in which 'fly by night' mining companies are degrading our lands. They will go over night without no money in the bank account to maintain those lands. There is also a rift between NMA and EPA. I must bring it to your attention as potential Board member that there has always been conflict between NMA and EPA. The EPA usually say those companies will not mine until they produce their EIA license and NMA will say let them go ahead. I believe with these

nominees, Mr Daniel Mattia and Professor Roberts, they will hang heads together to put an end to that malaise. I thank you very much.

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

HON. ALUSINE K. ALU-CONTEH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start by appreciating His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio for these fine nominees. I think it is a step in the right direction. He did not make any mistake because of the caliber of people he has nominated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start with Mr Albert Kobina Walker, proposed Member, Board of Trustees, National Social Security and Insurance Trust. Mr Albert Kobina Walker, is a man of the people. He is a man with wealth of experience. I have known him for over fifteen years at the Sierra Leone Brewery. I believe he made some positive strides in that institution. He moved from that Institution and to the Union Trust Bank Limited [UTB] and he held an Executive position at the bank. He later moved to the National Petroleum and became the General Manager. Mr Speaker, with these experiences, I believe he would create the necessary impact the President and this nation is expecting at NASSIT.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind all the nominees to the Board of Trustee that they have a huge responsibility; i.e., the responsibility of investing. We should be talking about investing the money NASSIT has collected. We should not be boasting about figures at the various banks. We should be investing those moneys. In Ghana and Nigeria, they invest the money. When I was elected as Councilor in 2008 at the Freetown Municipality, we went to Ghana and one of the offices that we were taken to is an office similar to our National Social Security Office. We were told that most of the buildings that we were seeing around were constructed by that office in the form of investment. They get lots of returns from those investments which they use to make sure that they develop the lives of people in Ghana. I believe with your expertise and experience, you can put modalities in place to ensure that the people benefit from NASSIT. You can invest in the health sector and because the previous government started Health Insurance Scheme, but I do not know why the Scheme has not started.

However, it is your responsibility to ensure that we build the lives of people. It is also your responsibility to ensure that the people benefit from what they have been investing. We should stop saying that the moneys are meant for the government.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Hon. P.C. Charles Caulker, proposed Member, Minerals Advisory Board. He is a father to me and we met ten years ago at his sister's place in Lumley. I asked him to tell me what has been happening in Moyamba. He explained to me and I noticed that he had a wealth of experience. He guided me and he even predicted that I would be promoted to another level. His prediction has manifested in my life. He is a man of experience and I believe that he will deliver exceptionally well.

With these few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I ask that this Honourable House approve all these nominees. I thank you all.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. I will take one more speaker from my right and then wind up the debate. I want to thank the Honourable Leader of the Opposition for expressing a wish that from now on, ladies should be giving preference in the speaking order.

HON. JEBBEH A. KUMABEH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to congratulate all the nominees before us this morning. I will talk about the nominees for NASSIT. In our just concluded oversight exercise, one of the issues the Committee on Fisheries and Marine Resources observed that majority of the workers who pay their dues have not been issued with NASSIT numbers or membership ID cards. That is a concern to the Committee because you cannot claim legitimacy if you do not have ID card. Your membership card is very important in claiming legitimacy. I want to count on the nominees to ensure that this problem is solved. In our next oversight visit, we want to see improvement in that particular aspect. People are paying from their meager salaries and some of them are paid **Le 500,000**. What guarantee do they have if they do not have ID cards to show that they are members of NASSIT? We want to see improvement in that regard. I am not crying down the office

at all. I do not want to be misunderstood, but such documents should be provided because it is their right.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, I congratulate all the nominees and I will ask this Honourable House to approve them. Thank you very much.

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

HON. EMILIA L. TONGI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am very happy for the nomination of Professor G.M.T. Robert, proposed Member, Board of Directors, EPA. He hails from my Constituency and I am happy for him. I am sure I made some comments in this Well few months ago that I have not had the opportunity to see any presidential nominee from Kissi Teng. I told him in camera that I am requesting for at least one nominee from my Constituency and thank God he has made it. I want to congratulate you in advance. Professor Roberts was in Paris doing his doctoral research and we were also studying there. Congratulations Prof. Roberts in advance. I want to thank the President for honouring my request.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, Mr Julius Daniel Mattia, is an intellectual I heard him speaking the Queen's English when he was expressing his experiences in all these different companies he has worked for. He impressed me and I want to salute him.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mrs Mamie Laura Sellu, proposed Member, National Youth Commission. I am very happy because any time the President nominates people, he tries as best as possible to include one or two women. I want to advise her to go there and work diligently. Please make us proud and we know you will live up to our expectations. The SLPP have a peculiar characteristic you should know. S.O.[2] 'den sabi book.' I am saying this because all of them are educated. We called you in Room No. 1 not to question your qualification, but probably to know you better. I am sure every nominee who is sent to this House must have been examined. They are not just sent here, but they must have been scrutinised. Once again I want to thank the President for nominating this set of nominees. Thank you very much and I wish you good luck.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the two previous speakers for their contributions. Let me take one Paramount Chief on this side.

HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, when we talk of governance, this is part of the governance system

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Paramount Chief, I hope in your contribution you will take due note of the fact that time is far gone.

HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: I will, Mr Speaker. I want to comment on the nominees not only to congratulate them but to ask for their approval. I want to start with Honourable P.C. Charles Caulker. Honourable P.C. Charles Caulker and I entered this Parliament together in 1996 and I know his contribution to society. I want to remind him that he is a traditional leader, but an intellectual. He is one of the persons in this country we look up to for ideas to develop this country. He has been nominated to serve as member of the Mineral's Advisory Board and this is his second term in that institution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Sierra Leone is an interesting country. Today, other countries have moved in terms of technology, but we are still using shovels and pickaxes. These are tools being used over 1,000, 2,000 years back. America is thinking of going to Mars, whilst we are still using obsolete equipment to develop this Nation. It is only the foreigners who are bringing machines here. I want the NMA to look at this issue and try to empower the Sierra Leoneans and give them the facilities to improve themselves and improve Sierra Leone. If a foreigner comes and takes 50 carats diamond and he pays only **3%**, it means the country has lost. If a Sierra Leonean gets the money, he/she will build houses and give to his/her friends, brothers, sisters, husband/wife, boyfriend/girlfriend. This will add to the improvement of the economy of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask the proposed Board Members to think about what is happening in the world. In modern days, we should not be using shovels or pickaxes to mine. We have to move from that archaic method. In fact we do not

even have those labourers anymore. The question is, are we really thinking how to improve this country? We have good people always appointed to manage those institutions, but are we thinking out of the box to improve Sierra Leone? Sometimes we give one shovel and a pickaxe to thirty [30] men to mine diamond. Do you think that should be our policy? Is that going to bring dividend to the people of Sierra Leone? I support you and you are my boss. We have been together, but I want you to think out of the box. Please think of how to improve Sierra Leone and we should stop improving the welfare of foreigners who usually come to exploit our resources.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the Environmental Protection Agency. Again, I am wondering what is happening in Sierra Leone. If you travel from Freetown to Bo, Kenema, Masingbi or Makali, you will be seeing wild fire in the bushes. The EPA should be interested in Climate Change and Global Warming. People are not interested at all. If we are interested, then we should stop setting fire on our bushes. Wild fire could be seen in Masingbi, Kono and other places, but nobody will stop the fire. The communities do not care to even put rules and regulations that will stop people from destroying our environment. If you are travelling from Freetown to Guinea, immediately you reach the border, nobody will tell you. You will know exactly where Guinea starts because you will see forests and virgin bushes until you enter Conakry.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are ruining this country by destroying the future of our children. The issue of burning the bushes should be stopped and we have to undertake robust tree planting exercises. On June 6th of every year, people usually celebrate 'Tree Planting Day.' They would go and drop one seedling in a hole and that is the end of it for that year. Mr Speaker, when some of us stand here to contribute, we look at issues that affect the development of this country.

THE SPEAKER: I know, but you promised me, Honourable Paramount Chief. Please fulfil your promise.

HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: I promised, but we have very important people who are going to manage our institutions. These are people who will contribute to the development of Sierra Leone, like NASSIT. NASSIT is one of the

financial institutions we should develop in this country. NASSIT have the resources to invest, but are they investing for the future generation of this country? Fifty years from now, NASSIT will become a liability if they do not invest correctly.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind the nominees that they are part of the financial institutions in this country, but Sierra Leone is far behind because our financial institutions are weak. This is why government is borrowing from the banks and we have no financial institutions that will give loan to improve this country. Therefore, I would like the nominees to go and look at the investment portfolio of NASSIT and not only the moneys they will be collecting. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Paramount Chief.

HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH [*Leader of Opposition*]: I thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot has been said by those who did not participate in the interview process that these are fine nominees. I am sure I know almost all these nominees. If I start talking about them individually, we will spend more time in this place.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was in the university with Mr Mohamed Kenewui Konneh. I want to assure this House that he is a very disciplined young man and we expect him to replicate same in the institution he is sent to manage. I want to believe that he will add value to what already exists at the Financial Intelligent Unit [FIU].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, Mrs Mamie Laura Sellu is being proposed to the National Youth Commission. When we talk about youth, we are referring to both sexes; i.e., male and female. So, whatever supports you need from Parliament, especially from the parliamentary Female Caucus, do not hesitate to contact them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, those who spoke before me have given their own pieces of advice to these nominees. Well, I want to encourage all of us to take our oversight work seriously. All of us could add value to these institutions and we should be ready to do so.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Albert Kobina Walker seated here has a wealth of experience, but whatever experience you have, it will not be sufficient if you fail to utilise it for the benefit of this country. Let us share experiences with them and make sure the ideas we have add value to our work. On that note, I want to endorse these fine nominees and make sure that this House approves them. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Leader of the Opposition for his contribution.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS [*Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank my colleagues for supporting the approval of these nominees. I want to assure them that these are very beautiful nominees and highly qualified individuals who have been nominated by His Excellency the President. A lot has been said about them. I will only admonish them to focus on their work and come back to Parliament if they have issues.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the proposed Director General of the National Minerals Agency, Mr Julius Daniel Mattai, has a huge responsibility. The Leader of C4C spoke about the decrease in revenue generation from the Mining Sector. We still believe that with your qualification, knowledge and experience you have in the mining sector, I personally believe that you will be able to do something to push that particular sector. I want to thank His Excellency the President for appointing this beautiful nominees; I wish to congratulate P. C. Charles Caulker in advance for being in Parliament for a very long time and who has contributed in the development of this country. I call on you to approve these beautiful nominees.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Members who have taken the Floor on this particular matter and for their brilliant contributions.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

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

THE SPEAKER: It is now my turn to recognise and acknowledge the fact we have many appointees before us this House, but this is one exceptional occasion when this House is unanimous, in recognising the quality of the nominees sent to us by His

Excellency the President. I think there is total unanimity by all that we could not have heard any better group of nominees than this. We wish them well and congratulate them for their appointments. We are confident that they will never let this House down, but on the contrary they will live up to the expectations of both the President and Members of this Honourable House in the discharge of their new responsibilities and functions. You go with our blessings. You may now take leave of us.

HON. DR KANDEH YUMKELLA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. On behalf of Honourable Foday Mario, who is attending a workshop, I want to bring to the attention of the Committee on Agriculture that there is an outbreak of foot and mouth disease of cattle in the Kambia District. They suspected this outbreak to have started in November, but in January this year, a total of thirty five [35] cows are being affected. Already, the FAO sent a team to Kambia to conduct some preliminary assessments and the workshop is on-going as we speak. This is why Honourable Foday Mario is not here. We are worried that this does not spread to Kabala or Karene, where they have more cattle. So, I wanted to bring it to the attention of this Honourable House and the Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the second issue is that I have been approached by a number of students who were enrolled at Law School and I have picked this issue up with the Minister of Higher Education. Apparently, a lot of students fail the exams every year, but that is not the issue. The issue is that they want to know what is wrong. Some of them have taken that exams twice or thrice, but nobody has called them to tell them which question they did not answer properly. I spoke with the Minister of Higher Education at the dinner organised by the President. He promised to look into the issue, but it is a complicated issue. I need to be guided, Mr Speaker. Where do we direct this issue to? Do you think we should take it up with the Committee on Education? I was a Professor and when a student fails a paper, he/she would want to know what went wrong, so that you can prepare the next time. However, this is different and nobody is willing to talk to them or show them their examination scripts. Mr Speaker, I heard that UNIMAK is overcrowded and they might go into two shifts system.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I brought this issue here because I needed guidance. Some even proposed for an amendment of the Act that established the Law School.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his concern. I have also received similar representation from the students who were marked fail in the exams. I think this is a very serious matter that we should send to the select Committee on Higher Education. I hope the Chairman of that Committee is here.

HON. ALIMAMY O. KAMARA [*Chairman, Committee on Higher Education*]: Yes, Mr Speaker. I wanted to respond. I am the Chairman of that Committee.

THE SPEAKER: Well, before you respond, this is a very serious matter which we are now sending to your Committee for consideration. We would want you to invite all the relevant Authorities to appear before your Committee and to provide the answers being brought by these students.

HON. ALIMAMY O. KAMARA: Okay Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, with regard to the outbreak of foot and mouth cattle disease, it is a very serious problem. We all recall that a similar outbreak happened not too long ago in the United Kingdom that resulted in the slaughtering of hundreds of thousands of cattle. Again, I want you to take this issue to the Committee on Agriculture. If the Chairman of that Committee is not around, please tell him to take this on board immediately and let him do everything possible to find out the causes of the outbreak and if there can be any remedies to the problem that has been identified. I thank the Honourable Dr Kandehe Kalleh Yumkella for raising these important issues.

Honourable Members, the Honourable Chairman of the Committee on Internal Affairs promised us that he was going to look into the problem that the Honourable Rtd [Capt.] Hafiju Kanja Sesay raised in our last meeting. We want to hear the update.

HON. ALUSINE KANNEH: Mr Speaker, we invited the Police from Tonkolili and Masingbi. They came to Parliament and we discussed the matter. The discussions were fruitful and we will report to the House possibly during the next meeting of the House.

This is because the Clerk of that Committee travelled to Ivory Coast for Visa. I contacted her yesterday on WhatSapp and she told me that she would be back over the weekend. The Honourable Rtd [Capt] Hafiju Kanja Sesay will confirm to you that the meeting was very fruitful. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member, but I will not entertain any discussion from the Honourable Hafiju Kanja Sesay on this matter.

HON. ALUSINE KANNEH: The report will be available very soon.

THE SPEAKER: I am coming to present a written report of your findings to the House and we shall await that report.

HON. ALUSINE KANNEH: I thank you.

HON. RTD [CAPT] HAFIJU KANJA SESAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O.23 to talk about the presence of an exploration company in my Constituency. The exploration licenses number of that Company is EL45/2011 and the license was issued on 21st April, 2011. This exploration Company is called Sea Wright Mining Company. They are currently engaged in Mining instead of exploring. They have been mining since 2011 to date. I was in my Constituency three days ago. I went to the mines office and the Mines Monitoring Officer, who is supposed to monitor all exploration and mining activities on both the diamond and Gold told me that there was a particular Gold Concentrated Box owned by Sea Wright Mining Company since 2011. He said they have never allowed any Mines Monitoring Officer to visit that particular Box. I do not know the concentrate in that particular box and they are no longer exploring. When we talk about exploration, it simply means to take box sample and analysis it either in your mining laboratory or elsewhere. They have mined more than **11 kilometres** from 2011 to date and they have a washing plant located at Nimiyama Sewafe. Mr Speaker, that particular Washing Plant is about 15 thousand tons of gravel per day.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want the Committee on Mines and Mineral Resources to take note of this issue and pay attention to this concern. Fortunately,

however, I was with the Deputy Chairman of that Committee. I took this matter up with the Ministry of Mines since July, 2018 and they promised to look into it. I was told that exploration licenses are usually issued for two years. The NMA have continued to issue licenses to this particular Company on four occasions, the Company is no longer doing exploration, but mining.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for raising this matter and again as in the previous cases, we will refer this matter to the Mines and Minerals Committee to look at it very urgently. I believe the Chairman of that Committee is here.

HON. SIRAJI ROLLINGS-KAMARA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O.23 to bring an issue relating to transportation for school children. I am a member of Committee on Transport and CTA Chairman of one of the leading girls schools in this country; i.e., the Freetown Secondary School for Girls [FSSG]. I want to first of all commend the Ministry of Works. I think we have seen lots of road parchments. I must praise them for that, but the Ministry of Transport need to do something very urgent. The President promised to provide about fifty buses for school children. We have not seen that happened since September. We want to know about the contract for the procurement of those buses whether they will be procured or not. I need clarification on that issue. We want to know how soon, Mr Speaker? I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for that reminder.

HON. MOMOH BOCKARIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O.23. Mr Speaker, before we went for the holidays last year, there was an issue before the House relating to Victoria Pack. The Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights reported that issue to this House that the Police have done their investigations and you instructed him to call the Police to present that report or make that report available to the House. As we speak, we have not seen that report.

Again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there was another issue we discussed in this House in relation to violence. Again, you instructed that an ad hock Committee be

established to look into the issue and present the report to the House. As we speak, this House has not received any report of that nature. Like I said, we should be seeing working as Parliament. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I cannot agree more and I want the Honourable Members to give us an update on those issues.

HON. SAA E. LAMINA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for bringing up this point. The topic he has just brought up is timely as well as topical. I believe it will be an injustice for us to hold on to that report and not making it available to this House. Mr Speaker, many factors must have contributed for the delay of that report.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, we do not want excuses.

HON. SAA E. LAMINA: It is not an excuse, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You need to bring that report to this House, Honourable Member.

HON. SAA E. LAMINA: The report is there, but the professionals we need, like the Police, the ONS and the Military... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: We will give you till the next adjourned date

HON. SAA E. LAMINA: Thank you, Mr Speaker

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Members.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 4:35 p.m. and was adjourned to Thursday, 14th February, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.]