



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2018**

*SESSION – 2018/2019*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

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**VOLUME: I**

**NUMBER: 1**

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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 Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.

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

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

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**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.**

**I. PRAYERS**

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

*[The House met at 10:20 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]*

*[The Clerk of Parliament, Mr Umar Paran Tarawally, Presided]*

The House was called to Order

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

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY [Clerk of Parliament]:** Honourable Members designate, Constitutional Instrument No.2 of 2018. Published 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 Sierra Leone Government, the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No.6 of 1991. The Fifth Parliament of Sierra Leone, Commencement of First Session.

PROCLAMATION 2018

In exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Sub-section [1] of Section 84 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991, the President hereby makes the following Proclamation:

Now, THEREFORE, I, do hereby Proclaim that the First Session of the Fifth Parliament of the Second Republic shall be held at Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown, commencing on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018, at 10:O'clock in the forenoon.

Made this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018. It is signed by Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, President

Honourable Members designate, I hereby formerly welcome you all to the Fifth Parliament of the Second Republic. Today, we are commencing a new Parliament and all 132 Members designate from 132 constituencies who went through crucibles and rugged journeys, and who went through all what it takes to become a qualified Member of Parliament. On behalf of Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone, I want to welcome you to the Fifth Session. To the Fourteen Paramount Chief [representing the 14 districts in this country], I want to heartily welcome them and to inform them that they are part of this Parliament and their valuable contributions are required.

Honourable Members designate, I want to inform you that you are about to take the oath of office, which will qualify you to be called Honourable Members of Parliament. Immediately after you would have subscribed to the oath of office, you would commence the business of working for the people of Sierra Leone or working for those who voted for you to represent them. In t other words, you will be working for Sierra Leone and you should work with all fairness or work without fair or favour.

Honourable Members designate, we are going to commence full proceedings and this will start with the oath taking process. Members of Parliament designate will be called by batches to subscribe to the oath of office. Again, every Member of Parliament will be given his/her pack that contains all necessary documents needed during your five years period as a Member of Parliament.

Honourable Members designate, after subscribing to the oath, we shall commence the rest of the business of the House; and another very important business of the House for today's sitting shall be the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House. I now invite names of Members of Parliament designate to come forward.

That notwithstanding, Honourable Members designate, the office of the Clerk of Parliament has been served a total of 16 injunctured Members of Parliament. In other words, 16 Members of Parliament designate shall not subscribe to the oath of office this morning. I want to remind Honourable Members designate that before subscribing to the oath of office, you are not full blown Members of Parliament. Therefore, you shall be treated as strangers, as described in Section 95 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and that Section will be invoked against those who behave contemptuously. It is now my privilage to read out the names of those who should not take part in these proceedings.

1. Mr Isaac Tom Tucker, Constituency 022;
2. Mr John Chalres Conteh, Constituency 031;
3. Mr Kusan Sesay, Constituency 045;
4. Hon. Amadu Kanu, Constituency 098;
5. Hon. Kemokoh Conteh, Constituency 108;
6. Madam Rugiatu Rose Kanu, Constituency 113;
7. Mr Isaac Tarawally, Constituency 118;
8. Mr Wurroh Timbo Jalloh, Constituency 119;
9. Mr Momoh Kamara, Constituency 120;
10. Mrs Kadie Kallon [nee Davies] Constituency 110;
11. Mr Ahmed Mansaray, Constituency 121;

12. Hon. Chernor R. M. Bah, Constituency 126;
13. Mr Serajin Rowlings Kamara, Constituency 127;
14. Mr Abubakar F. Sillah, Constituency 129;
15. Mr Osman Abdel Timbo, Constituency 130; and
16. Mr Billoh Shaw, Constituency 039.

Honourable Members designate, your actions shall be considered contemptuous if you continue to behave this way. I want to remind you that you are not yet Members of Parliament until you properly subscribe to the oath. You are still considered as strangers and I want you to take your seat. Can you all take your respective seats? You are strangers and strangers are supposed to comport themselves with dignity. Honourable Members designate, I adjourn this sittings to 11.30 a.m. Thank you.

*[The House was adjourned at 10.25 a.m. and resumed at 11.30 a.m.]*

Honourable Members designate, I want to inform all and sundry that the Assistance Inspector General of Police [AIG] or the Local Unit Commander [LUC] will throw out anybody who fails to resume his/her seat. Please take your seats or I will ask you to leave the Well. Mr LUC, those who are standing should be out of this Well. Mr LUC, please match them out of this Well. Arrest and take them out of this Well *[Chaotic situation continued with Members standing]*.

Honourable Members designate, I hereby invoke Section 95 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No.6 of 1991. All of you standing are disrupting the proceedings of Parliament and therefore you are in contempt of Parliament. If you are arrested, you will be sent to jail.

Honourable Members designate, I want all Members of Parliament designate to please take their seats. I want to ask others to sit down. I do want to see people standing with the exception of the police men and women. I want the members of the Press to also behave properly. I want everybody to be seated with the exception of the Police. Again, I want to inform members of the public that we want decorum and tranquillity in the Well of Parliament. Please comport yourselves properly. If I get any further noise, you

will not only leave the gallery, but you will leave the precincts of Parliament. I thank you for your cooperation.

This oath shall be administered by me the Clerk of Parliament in line with Section 83 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No.6 of 1991, which reads: **“Every Member of Parliament shall, before taking his seat in Parliament, take and subscribe before Parliament the oath as set out in the third schedule.”**

Honourable Members designate, we are going to commence the swearing-in ceremony. The following Members subscribed to the oath:

NAME	CONSTITUENCY
1. HON. ABDULAI OSMAN CHARLES	079
2. HON. ANSUMANA ALOYSIOUS BOCKARIE	005
3. HON. ARUNA MASSAY NGAHINTEH	085
4. HON. BANYA SARTY	004
5. HON. BHENDU FRANCIS SAA	027
6. HON. BOCKARIE MOMOH	012
7. HON. P.C. BUBU NGBNAK IV BAI FARAMA TASS -	<b>KAMBIA DISTRICT</b>
8. HON. CHARLES SAHR	028
9. HON. CONTEH IBRAHIM TAWA	132
10. HON. EDWIN MOSES ANDREW	090
11. HON. FEFEGULA SIMEON	096
12. HON. P. C. FINNOH III KANDEH -	<b>BOMBALI DISTRICT</b>
13. HON. FOFANAH ABUBAKARR	016
14. HON. FOFANAH MUSA	023
15. HON. P. C. GBEREH III BAI SHEBORA SEHBA -	<b>PORT LOKO DISTRICT</b>
16. HON. GEORGE EDWARD	097
17. HON. GEVAO MOIWO HINDOLO	003
18. HON. P. C. GONDOR II FORAY CYRIL -	<b>KAILAHUN DISTRICT</b>
19. HON. JALLOH FORAY BAMBAMUSA	056
20. HON. JALLOH OSMAN WURIE	109
21. HON. JORKIE MOSES BAIMBA	091

22. HON. JUANA SAHR	002
23. HON. KAISAMBA AMARA FRANCIS	020
24. HON. KAMANDA KOMBA MANSAMAYAO	024
25. HON. KAMARA ALIMAMY O.	078
26. HON. KAMARA BAI SAMA	060
27. HON. KAMARA FODAY MARIO	057
28. HON. KAMARA JOSEPH ABDUL BASH	084
29. HON. KAMARA REBECCA YEI	029
30. HON. KAMARA TITUS ABDUL	061
31. HON. KANJA MAADA HAFIJU	018
32. HON. KANNEH ALUSINE	013
33. HON. KANNEH MOHAMED	006
34. HON. KASSEGBAMA SHEK DAVID AIAH	026
35. HON. KEMOKAI ABU	103
36. HON. P. C. KOROMA MEAMA KAJUE FATMATA HAJA BINTU	
<b>MOYAMBA DISTRICT</b>	
37. HON. KUMABEH JEBBEH ALICE	092
38. HON. LAHAI MUSA	009
39. HON. LAMIN JOSEPH WILLIAM	081
40. HON. LAMINA EMERSON SAA	030
41. HON. LANSANA MOHAMED FESTUS	015
42. HON. LAVALIE JAYBEH TSHOMBE DOMINIC	098
43. HON. LEBBIE NENNEH	086
44. HON. LEBBY MAADA AMBROSE	083
45. HON. P. C. MACAVORAY KANGBAI JOE	<b>BO DISTRICT</b>
46. HON. MACKERY YUSUF	087
47. HON. MAKIEU JOSEPHINE	014
48. HON. MANSARAY BRIMA	017
49. HON. MARAH III ALIE BALANSAMA	<b>- KOINADUGU DISTRICT</b>
50. HON. P. C. MARRAH III FASALIE KULAKO DEMBA	<b>- FALABA DISTRICT</b>
51. HON. P. C. MBRIWA II SAHR YOUNGAI KONTANDAY	<b>- KONO DISTRICT</b>

52. HON. P. C. MINAH LANSANA MATILDA YAYU	-	<b>PUJEHUN DISTRICT</b>	
53. HON. MOIGUA PETER MUSA			011
54. HON. MUNDA BOSTON			021
55. HON. NYUMA SAHR MATHEW			019
56. HON. PANDA GENEWAI SAMUEL			010
57. HON. P. C. PEWA PRINCE MAMBU	-	<b>KENEMA DISTRICT</b>	
58. HON. RAHMAN-COKER MOHAMED SHERIFF			131
59. HON. ROGERS ALEX MATTIA			102
60. HON. ROGERS DICKSON MOMOH			100
61. HON. SALIA-KONNEH QUINTIN			007
62. HON. SAM PAUL SAA			025
63. HON. SAMA MUSA SHIAKA			104
64. HON. SANDY ISHMAIL SAMA			<b>080</b>
65. HON. SELLU MUSTAPHA MUSA			095
66. HON. P. C. SESAY III KANDEH WUSU	-	<b>KARENE DISTRICT</b>	
67. HON. SESAY VERONICA KADIE			094
68. HON. P. C. SHERIFF ALIE BADARA	-	<b>BONTHE DISTRICT</b>	
69. HON. SILIKIE BASHIRU			082
70. HON. SONGA WUYATTA BERNADETTE			008
71. HON. THOMAS SOLOMON SEGEPOH			089
72. HON. HON. TONGI LOLOH EMILIA			001
73. HON. TUNIS SIDIE MOHAMED			101
74. HON. TURAY SHEKU MUNIRR			099
75. HON. VANDY CHRISTOPHA KEIKURA			088
76. HON. DR YUMKELLA KANDEH KOLLEH			062

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Members, I want to congratulate all of you for subscribing to the oath. I want to however take this opportunity to congratulate Honourable Veronica K. Sesay for her victory. She is one of the longest serving Members of Parliament.

## **II. ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT, SECTION 79 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE [ACT NO.6 OF 1991] AS AMENDED BY THE CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE [AMENDMENT] ACT, 2013 AND STANDING ORDERS 8**

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Members, we have come to the other item on the Order Paper, which is the election of the Speaker of the Fifth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

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

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Mr Sergeant-at-Arms, please ensure that the doors are closed. Meaning henceforth nobody comes in, if you want to go out the Clerk's table should be notified, but nobody comes in henceforth.

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Mr Clerk, I stand on S.O. 34, in tandem with S.O. 8[4] which allows Members of Parliament to make comments.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Member, you will do that later, but not now, please. You have to wait till the question is proposed. Honourable Members, Section 79 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone talks about the qualifications and process for the election of Speaker, but that Section was amended in 2013 by the Constitution of Sierra Leone amendment Act 2013. Section 79[1] of the amendment states that Members of Parliament and who had served for such for not less than five years. In other words, if you are a Member of Parliament and you wish to contest for the Office of Speaker, you must have served this House for at least five years.

Qualify to be Members of Parliament and who had served as such for not less than 10 years in other words if you have served this House for 10 years and you are no longer a Member of Parliament you are still qualified to be elected and you are not less than 40 years. In other words for those who have not attained the age of 40 years, they should not even contemplate of becoming the Speaker of this House. According to Section 79[2], the Speaker shall be elected by a resolution in favour of which there are votes of not less than two/third of the Members of Parliament. The Members of Parliament here means all those who have subscribed to the oath of office are the ones qualified to be

called Members of Parliament. All others are Members of Parliament designate. A cast of votes of not less than two/third of Members of Parliament provided that if three successive resolutions proposing the election of the Speaker fails to receive the votes of two/third of Members of Parliament and only then the Speaker shall be elected by a resolution passed by a simple majority of all Members of Parliament. In other words, for you to take part in the election of the Speaker, you must have subscribed to the oath of office. And if two/third votes for a candidate, the candidate will automatically occupy the seat as Speaker for the Fifth Parliament. However, Honourable Members, if we fail to get the two/third, we will go through a second round of election. Again, if we fail to get the required votes cast, we will conduct another third round of election; and if no candidate obtains two/third, the candidate with the highest number of votes in those three successive elections will proceed for a fourth round, during which the Speaker will be elected by a simple majority. For example, if ten [10] people are electing somebody to serve in a particular position, six [6] is considered as simple majority.

Honourable Members, I would now ask the Table Clerk to provide the total number of Members of Parliament who have subscribed to the oath. According to the Table clerk, those who have subscribed to the oath are 77 and two/third of 77 Members of Parliament is 51. Again, the simple majority should be 39 Members of Parliament. So, if we fail to obtain 51 votes in favour of any candidate in the first ballot, we will proceed to the second round of election. Also, if we fail to obtain 51 votes in the second ballot, we will go for a third ballot; and if we fail to get 51 votes, we will finally go for a simple majority, which is 39 valid votes cast.

Honourable Members, according to Section 79[4], Paragraph [C] of the 1991 Constitution, the Office of the Speaker is now declared vacant. I now call on nominations for the position of Speaker of the House. Before that, Honourable Members, based on the qualifications stated in the Constitution of Sierra Leone Amendment Act, 2013 the nomination of every candidate should be seconded by another Member of Parliament. You have to ensure that your nominee is qualified. I want to remind all and sundry that you can nominate any person whom you think is

qualified to be elected as Speaker of this Honourable House. At the end of the nomination process, I will ask a Member of Parliament to move for the closure of the nomination process and I will also ask for a seconder. When that is done, we will verify the qualifications of all the nominee[s] as per the Constitution of Sierra Leone Amendment Act of 2013.

Honourable Members, the Table Clerks will take down names of nominees for onward announcement to the public. I want to remind Honourable Members that you will vote for one candidate at a time. This is a different election and I have said that the only election that is more tedious than the election of the Speaker is the election of the Pope. So, assuming that three or more people are being nominated, you will vote for them one after the other. We are not going to put a ballot box and issue out ballot papers and allow Members of Parliament to come and vote for Mr 'A,' or Mr 'B.' We will be calling Honourable Members who are in favour of Mr 'A' to come forward and cast their votes for Mr 'A.' After all the Honourable Members have cast their votes either in favour or against Mr 'A,' we will count the votes; and if Mr 'A' pulls two/third of the votes cast, Mr 'A' will be declared Speaker of this Honourable House. However, if Mr 'A' fails to obtain the required two/third of Members present, then we will go to Mr 'B' with the same process. If no candidate obtains two/third at first round of the election, we will go for a second round of the election by starting the process again. Again, if that fails, we go will for a third round of the election until we get a Speaker. So, this is going to be a tedious process and I want ask all of us to exercise patience and maintain decorum.

Honourable Members, if there is one candidate, however, the question will be posed and Members of Parliament are expected to respond by voice collection of 'Aye' or 'Nay.' But in the case of the election of the Speaker, the Constitution is very clear about that voting should be done by secret ballot. Therefore, if there is one candidate, we will still pose the question and you are expected to vote secretly for that candidate. If that candidate fails to get two/third of valid votes cast, you will go for a second round of voting. Now, what do we mean by 'Aye' or 'Nay'? The 'Aye' means 'yes' and the 'Nay'

means 'no.' So, if the question is proposed in favour of a particular candidate and you feel inclined to vote for that candidate, just write 'Aye.' It is spelt 'a-y-e.' You should be writing that spelling down, so that you will not make any spelling mistake. If you fail to spell the word correctly, we will consider that vote as void and you know how the Press will report to the public. We are going to vote and count manually.

Honourable Members, please be informed that when your name is announced, you have to walk towards the table of the Deputy Clerk of Parliament who will issue a ballot paper to you. After the ballot paper has been issued to you, you have to walk towards the Speaker's table and where you will secretly write 'Aye' or 'Nay' and walk down again to deposit your ballot paper into the ballot box.

With those explanations, Honourable Members, nominations are now opened for the position of Speaker of Parliament.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Clerk, I Honourable Sidie M. Tunis, do hereby nominate Dr Abass Chernor Bundu for the position of Speaker of Parliament.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Members, any seconder?

**HON. QUINTON SALIA KONNEH:** I Honourable Quinton Salia Konneh, alias James Bond, an independent candidate representing Constituency 007 rise to second that motion.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Members, any more nominations? Honourable Members, any more nominations? In the absence of other nomination[s], can a Member of Parliament move for the nomination to be closed?

**HON. DIXON M. ROGERS:** I Dixon M. Rogers, move that nomination be closed for the election of the Speaker.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Any seconder to that Motion?

**HON. HINDOLO MOIWO NGEVAO:** I Honourable Hindolo Moiwo Ngevao, rise to second that the nomination be closed.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Members, nominations are closed and we have only one nominee.

*[Question Proposed]*

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Clerk, I nominated Honourable Dr Abass Chernor Bundu this afternoon. He is a son of the soil of Gbinti, Debeya Chiefdom, Port Loko District. It has however been transferred to Karene District by legislation. He is a Barrister at Law of the High Court of Australia since 1970. He is approximately 70 years old and he is one of our best Constitutional Lawyers in this country. Dr Abass Bundu has served as an international Lawyer and consultant in several countries across the globe. He has served as State Counsel in the Attorney General's Department in the Commonwealth of Australia. He has also served as an Assistant Director of International Affairs Division in the Commonwealth Secretariat in the United Kingdom.

Mr Clerk, I can assure you that our nominee is coming to Parliament with a wealth of experience in which this Parliament and the whole country will benefit from. A lot of people may not know this, but when Liberia and Sierra Leone were experiencing the civil war, it was this gentleman who provided the leadership role at the ECOWAS Secretariat to create what was known as the ECOMOG, which was an intervention force that went to Liberia and Sierra Leone to bring about a peaceful settlement of the civil war. He has been a patriotic citizen and has provided the necessary leadership at the ECOWAS level. He has also provided leadership in this country.

Mr Clerk, Dr Abass Chernor Bundu has served as a Member of Parliament from 1982–1992. For those critics who are saying that this man is not qualified, I want them to understand that the Constitution is very very clear. With the permission of the Clerk, Section 79 [1] [d] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone as amended states that you must be qualified to be a Member of Parliament and who has served as such for not less than 10 years.

Mr Clerk, Honourable Members, our nominee served as a Member of Parliament from 1982 – 1992 and if you do the calculation, you will find out that he has served this

House for about ten years. Other critics are saying that we should not elect a Speaker today because some Members of Parliament are absent. I want this country and this Honourable House to know that when we took the oath of office in 2012 as Members of Parliament, we conducted the elections in the absence of two Honourable Members of Parliament who were injuncted. So, they were not present at the swearing-in ceremony, which means that a precedent has already been set. I want to remind critics that there has been a precedent in 2012 because two Honourable Members of Parliament who were duly elected were injuncted and they were not present at all. However, the only difference between 2012 and 2018 is the number of those injuncted. Therefore, I want to say with all authority that my candidate is 100% qualified to be elected as Speaker of this House. I thank you very much.

**HON. SHAKA M. SAMA:** I am Honourable Shaka Musa Sama, an Independent Member of Parliament from Constituency 104, Pujehun District. I am not going to talk about injunctions or manual counting. I just want to remind Honourable Members that the position of Speaker is a very important role and we are about to elect the man that will preside over all sittings of Parliament. This Parliament is a political party and we have some political parties that are big parties because they have large number of Members of Parliament and some are smaller parties. I speak on behalf of all parties that are in the minority. There are Independent Members of Parliament here and smaller political parties; i.e., the National Grand Coalition [NGC] and the Coalition for Change [C4C] in this House.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Member, have you been authorised to speak on behalf of the minority parties?

**HON. SHAKA M. SAMA:** No, Mr Clerk. I am not speaking on their behalf, but merely mentioning them. Mr Clerk, to mention them does not mean I am talking for them.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** But you said you were speaking on their behalf.

**HON. SHAKA SAMA:** On behalf of what? Sorry about that, but I will come to the point.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Somebody has stood on a Point of Order.

**HON. DIXON M. ROGERS:** Thank you, Mr Clerk. I am standing on S.O 32[5]. We call the Honourable Member's utterances irrelevant. Mr Clerk, for the benefit of other Members of Parliament, S.O. 32[5] reads: **"A member must confine his observation to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto."** I am of the opinion that the issue my colleague is trying to introduce is irrelevant in this matter. Thank you, Mr Clerk.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** My ruling is that you strictly talk on the nominee.

**HON. SHAKA M. SAMA:** Thank you very much, Mr Clerk. What I am trying to say is that we have one person that we are going to vote for. I want to appeal to this Honourable House that if he is elected as Speaker of this Honourable House, he must display fairness, objectivity and impartiality. This is a Parliament with different Members of Parliament from different parties. We have giant political parties as well as smaller political parties and it is always good to entertain opposing views during deliberations. I am saying this because if we have opposing views, it will make the work of Parliament very easy. We are here to ensure that we have a win-win situation for Sierra Leoneans. We will support the government to succeed and one way we can support it is through constructive criticisms. It does not mean when we disagree with government policies we are anti to the government, but to provide alternative answers.

With those few words, Mr Clerk, Honourable Members, I want to appeal to the incoming Speaker to be very fair because it is only fairness and impartiality that can give prestige to this House. Thank you very much.

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELA:** Mr Clerk, Honourable Members, I asked for direction since this is my first time in Parliament when we could make observations. And I want to make my observations about the election process before I comment on the nominee. This is because we had extra ordinary events in this Parliament today which I think never happened before. I think that has to be in context as we elect the Speaker of this House. We have also seen extra ordinary events here yesterday. Today,

we saw an unprecedented event where police forcefully removed Members of Parliament in bulk from Parliament.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Member.

**HON. KANDEH K. YUMKELA:** Yes, Mr Clerk.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Can you resume your seat? What you are saying is controversial and it should not be introduced in this particular context.

**HON. KANDEH K. YUMKELA:** Mr Clerk, I stand on S.O. 34 to make an observation.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Member, that is controversial and it should not be introduced in this context. Please comment on the nominee.

**HON. KANDEH K. YUMKELA:** Mr Clerk, when **48%** of Members Parliament is not present, we are not able to comment on the candidate because almost half of the total number of Members of Parliament are is here.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Member, can you resume your seat? I want to remind you that S. O. 34 is irrelevant in this case and will not protect you.

**HON. KANDEH K. YUMKELA:** In that case, Mr Clerk, I stand on S. O. 8 [4].

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Member, if you wish to speak, please speak on the nominee. S.O. 8[4] allows Members of Parliament to comment after nomination is closed. I want you to read that provision Sir.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Please read the last part of S.O. 8[4].

**HON. KANDEH K. YUMKELA:** It says: "Whenever a question is proposed under this order, the Clerk shall call in turn upon any member who indicates his desire to speak and when all Members have spoken, who desire to do so, shall put the question to the House. You have not allowed us that time to comment.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Member, can you resume your seat?

**HON. KANDEH K. YUMKELA:** Yes please.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Member, even though you are free to debate in this House, there are rules governing debates. Therefore, I want to encourage you to thoroughly master the Standing Orders, so that you follow the rules of debate in this House.

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Clerk, Honourable Members, people have been trying to describe our candidate and I will attempt, within the two minutes allocated to me, to delve into the works of our proposed Speaker of Parliament. Mr Clerk, Part V, Section 105 of the Constitution, Act No. 6 of 1991 states, 'Parliament is the Supreme Authority to make law.' When this Parliament was convened in 1996, the Standing Orders were revised and enacted into law in 2006. In fact, S.O. 12 gives you details about the Hansard and their importance. I visited the Library to go through the records and read about the proposed legal luminary, Dr Abass Chernor Bundu. I want to remind you that he is qualified to serve as Speaker of this House. I am saying this because on the 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1982, he took oath of office as Member of Parliament. Again, on the 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1986, he took another oath of office. He took active roles during parliamentary debates.

Mr Clerk, with your permission, Honourable Dr Abass Chernor Bundu took part during the debate on the Appropriation Act, 1982. The reference is Vol. XXXVI, No. 63, Pages 11-13 of the 5<sup>th</sup> allotted Day. The Honourable Salia Jusu Sheriff [may his soul rest in peace], contributed to that debate, immediately after Honourable Dr Abass Chernor Bundu has contributed.

Mr Clerk, Honourable Members, I will attempt to elucidate Members of Parliament on the eligibility of the proposed Speaker of the Sierra Leone House of Parliament. In 1990, he was the Honourable Member for Port Loko North/East and the Speaker of that Parliament at that time was... - *[Interruption]*.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Member, there is no contention in this Well about the qualification of your nominee. I will encourage you to make general comments rather than emphasising on the eligibility of the candidate.

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you, Mr Clerk. We have heard some controversial issues about this nominee and that was why I wanted to make some clarifications. I want to support the Motion of the Leader of Government Business that Honourable Dr Abass Chernor Bundu is qualified and he has served in various capacities in this country and outside this country. For instance, he served in the ECOWAS Parliament and he was sent on Special Mission as Executive Secretary to ECOWAS. Again, he brought about the peace keeping force, commonly known as ECOMOG. His role in the ECOMOG peace keeping force brought a peaceful transition and removed the rebels from Sierra Leone.

On that note, Mr Clerk, I want to once again support the Motion because the Honourable Dr Abass Chernor Bundu has all the qualifications to be elected as Speaker of this Honourable House. I support Honourable Sidie M Tunis from Pujehun District to vote overwhelmingly, so that we get more than two/third of the votes cast in favour of Honourable Dr Abass Chernor Bundu. Thank you very much.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Thank you, Honourable Members. That is the end and I want to ask the Table Clerk, Mr Anthony C. Kamara to come forward as we are about to conduct the elections. Honourable Members, we do not have time for more comments. Mr Anthony C. Kamara, please show Members of Parliament the ballot box. Again, show them the cover of the ballot box. Honourable Members, please sit down. Mr Lamin Yansaneh, please read the serial number, so that those interested would take them down.

**MR LAMIN YANSANEH [Table Clerk]:** Seal number 0449921; Seal number 0449924; Seal number 0449925; and Seal number 0449922.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Members, I want to remind you that when your name is called, please you walk to the Deputy Clerk of Parliament and receive your ballot paper before you proceed to the Speaker's table where you will make your choice. If you are in favour of Honourable Dr Abass Chernor Bundu to take the Chair as Speaker of Parliament, please mark 'Aye' which means 'Yes' or 'Nay' which means 'No.' The ballot papers have been in a tampered envelope and they will be kept for one calendar year before they are finally disposed of.

Honourable Members, the voting process has ended and we are going to sort out the ballot papers for onward reconciliation. We have 76 sworn-in Members of Parliament, but 4 Members of Parliament abstained and it is their right. We have one void and 71 valid votes cast, giving us a total of 76. This means result is tallied with the number of sworn-in Members of Parliament. I want to remind you that 2/3 of 76 is 51. Therefore, the Honourable Dr Abass Chernor Bundu, having pulled 71 valid votes is duly elected Speaker of the 5<sup>th</sup> Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

On that note, Honourable Members, it is now my privilege to invite the Honourable Speaker to come forward and subscribe to the oath.

*[Suspension of S. O. 5[2] being 3:00 p.m.]*

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Dr Abass Chernor Bundu, are you a Christian or a Muslim?

**HON. DR ABASS CHERNOR BUNDU:** I am a Muslim.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Please take the Quran for the oath.

Honourable Dr Abass Chernor Bundu subscribed to oath of office as Speaker of the 5<sup>th</sup> Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Congratulations, Mr Speaker.

*[The House stood down for five minutes to allow the Speaker to be properly robed].*

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

### **III. 'ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT [SECTION 80 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE ACT NO. 6 OF 1999 AS AMENDED BY THE CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE, AMENDED ACT OF 2013 AND STANDING ORDERS 9.**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I shall now call on the Clerk of Parliament to explain Section 80 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Amendment Act of 2013.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone was amended by the Repealing and Replacing of Sub-

Sections 2 and 3 of Section 80. Sub-section 2 states: **"No person shall be elected as Deputy Speaker unless the person is a Member of Parliament and has served as such but not less than five years."** Sub-section 3 states: **"Members of Parliament shall elect a person to the office of Deputy Speaker:**

**a. at the first Sitting of Parliament; or**

**b. at the first Sitting of Parliament after the occurrence of the vacancy in the Office of the Deputy Speaker or so soon thereafter as may be convenient."**

Honourable Members, the process in the election of the Deputy Speaker is in Section 9 of the Standing Orders. Section 9 reads: **"The election of the Deputy Speaker shall be conducted in a similar manner to the election of a Speaker, save that Mr Speaker shall preside, and that any Motion for the election of the Deputy Speaker shall be declared to have been agreed to, if it is supported by the majority of Members present and voting."**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the election of the Deputy Speaker is presided over by the Speaker and this is a simple majority system. It does not require the total number of all Members of Parliament. It only requires a simple majority of Members present and voting. Having said that, I will now ask the Speaker to call for nominations.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I now invite nominations for the position of Deputy Speaker.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I Honourable Mathew Sahr Nyuma from Mukaka Gbulamayama rise to make my nomination. The person I want to nominate cut across the Independent, the SLPP, the C4C, etc. *[Applause]*. He is a lawyer by profession and he has practised not to perfection, but very close to perfection. This is because there is no perfection in humanity. With those few remarks, I hereby nominate Honourable Segepoh Thomas for the position of Deputy Speaker. Thank You.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, the Honourable Segepoh Thomas has been nominated for the position of Deputy Speaker. Any Seconder?

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am Honourable Bashiru Silikie representing Constituency 082, Baoma Chiefdom, Bo District. I hereby second the nomination of Honourable Sengepoh Thomas as Deputy Speaker of Parliament.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any other nomination? With the absence of any other nomination can somebody move for the closure of the nomination for the position of Deputy Speaker?

**HON. MOSES B. JORKIE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I Honourable Moses Baimba Jorkie of Constituency 091, Bonthe District, hereby ask that the nomination be closed. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Seconder?

**HON. VERONICA K. SESAY:** I, Honourable Veronica Kadie Sesay, hereby second that motion.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

**THE SPEAKER:** We shall now proceed to the voting process.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Honourable Members, I read to you the Serial Numbers. We have Serial 0449915, Serial Number 0449914, Serial Number 0449913 and Serial Number 0449912. I want to remind you that you will be called one after the other to cast your vote.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, voting has ended and we shall now commence the counting process.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Seal Number 0449914, Seal Number 0449912, Seal Number 0449915. According to the result, Honourable Segepoh S. Thomas scored 72 votes and 4 absention.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, the Honourable Segepoh S. Thomas having received a requisite number of votes in accordance with the requirement of the Constitution, is hereby declared duly elected as Deputy Speaker of this House *[Applause]*. According to the result announced by the Clerk, 72 Mmembers of

Parliament voted in favour of Honourable Segepoh S. Thomas and 4 abstained. I now invite the Honourable Segepoh S. Thomas to come forward and subscribe to the oath of office as Deputy Speaker of the House.

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Deputy Speaker is now subscribing to the oath of office.

*[The Honourable Sengepor S. Thomas subscribed to the oath as Deputy Speaker of this Honourable House].*

**MR UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, congratulations. This is your package and it contains all the materials you need for the office of the Deputy Speaker *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, on behalf of the entire House, I want to express our very sincere felicitations and congratulations to the Honourable Segepoh S. Thomas for his successful election to the office of Deputy Speaker of this House.

Honpurable Members, we shall now move to item VIII on the Order Paper, which is 'Felicitations to Mr Speaker and Deputy Speaker.' I am cognisance of the fact that we are skipping item VII and postponing consideration of that item till tomorrow due to the developments that occurred in this House in the course of the day. I am sure it is the wish of this House to have an inclusive House.

#### **VIII. FELICITATIONS TO THE SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER.**

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to congratulate my brother who has won the election. Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, I told you inter-alia that you are presiding over humble merits of representation of this House. I am saying this because this Parliament is very unique and we have never seen such political arrangement in the political history of Sierra Leone. However, I believe, with your wealth of experience as former Executive Secretary to ECOWAS, your service in the Commonwealth and in the local politics of this country, you will ensure fairness and professionalism. From your past records, I found

out that you were one of the Honourable Members who has contributed immensely to the growth and development of Sierra Leone from the 80s to present.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to refer you to S.O. 30 and remind you that Members of Parliament are here to represent their Constituents from different parts of this country. In that regard, Members of Parliament should be given the platform to represent their people in this Well. We want you to give every Member of Parliament a fair space, the space he/she can channel his/her views and the space where every Member of Parliament can stand the test of time. This is the platform where we can use to advocate for change. The change should not be cosmetic and it has to come from our hearts. We want a better Sierra Leone *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you have seen all and with your skills and experiences you have mustered over the years and beyond this country, I believe you can serve us well. I believe we want to achieve the Pao Pao dream, which is a dream of the paradise for the people of Sierra Leone. That is the dream we want to see and we want to take Sierra Leone to another level; not by tribe or region, but as one country, one people, one nation and one Sierra Leone. I doff my hat to you and I want you to treat us as equal. Please help Sierra Leoneans, not as SLPP supporters, Paramount Chief representing their different Chiefdoms, C4C, but all Sierra Leoneans *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to briefly talk about Honourable Segepoh S. Thomas. He is a man who has lived up to expectations and I want to state here that he is one of us. We believe our similarities are far greater than our differences. I nominated my Deputy Speaker because I believe in him. He is a man who is very close to perfection. He is a professional lawyer and a man who has contributed immensely by helping the poor. He has been offering services to people who do not have the money to pay lawyers. I am saying this because he has been working closely with the Legal Aid Board. Please, Mr Deputy Speaker, do not disappoint me. I also want to remind you that whenever you are presiding, please give every Member of Parliament the platform to make his/her contributions. We in the SLPP believe in positive criticisms. That is what we are going to use to change this country. We believe in change and His

Excellency the President of this Republic, Rtd Brigadier Maada Wonni Bio will deliver on the platform of change. I thank you very much.

**HON. SHAKA M. SAMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is natural to start by congratulating you and the Deputy Speaker. Your academic qualifications have been read out to the public and I want to confess that you are over qualified. However, I want to remind all and sundry that a lot of Sierra Leoneans are with such qualifications, but the problem has been performance.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a golden opportunity for you to serve your country. The image of this Parliament has not been good to the public because we have been labelled as a rubber-stamp Parliament. They have used several terminologies to describe this Parliament, but with your experience, we pray and hope that you will redeem the image of this Parliament. Before your election, I made a point that this Parliament consists different groups. Some groups are said to be giant groups and some smaller groups. However, we do not have small or big Members of Parliament because we are all equal. We are all elected to represent our people and we do not want a one party system. What will make this Parliament very fruitful is for your office to respect opposing views. We may not speak with one voice or we may differ on certain issues. What is important is that, all of us should be ready to serve this country. We want to assure you that we will give you the support you need in the performance of your constitutional duties.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind you that Sierra Leoneans are looking forward to effective performance. Our country and Sierra Leoneans have suffered a lot. If you look at our potential, we are one of the richest countries in the continent and the World at large; but ironically, we are the poorest. This is because our huge mineral resources or natural wealth have never been translated into better living conditions of our people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, over six million population cannot come here because this space is too small and that is the reason they have elected us to come and represent them here. Some of us are representing marginalised Sierra Leoneans. These

are people who pay their taxes to Government, but most of the taxes paid are used in Freetown without considering other parts of this country. I want to remind this House that Freetown is not Sierra Leone. We have come here to speak on behalf of our people. Sierra Leoneans have voted a lot and what they want now is performance. They want a change in the new direction and the President has made a promise of that nature. Today, I want to state here that it is not for me to judge because Sierra Leoneans will judge every politician after five years. We hope we all work together as a team to push this country forward. Together we are strong.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Member. I shall take two more speakers.

**HON. ABU KEMOKAI:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am Honourable Abu Kemokai from Constituency 103, Pujuhuin District. I believe the SLPP is a party for the people and the SLPP represents the voice of the people. This is because I am a typical example speaking from this noble House. Mr Speaker, before this time, people were of the opinion that a young man below the age of 35 cannot come to this House as a representative of his/her people. The SLPP has demonstrated that the young people can take positions of trust in this country. A typical example is the Deputy Speaker. The Deputy Speaker is a young man and I am seeing a lot of other young people in this House, which clearly demonstrates that young people are now taking the mantle of leadership of this country. I want to thank you, Mr Speaker and congratulate you on your election as Speaker of this noble House and congratulations to the Deputy Speaker of of this Honourable House. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Member. I now recognise Honourable Mrs Songa.

**HON. WUYATTA B. SONGA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to congratulate you and the Deputy Speaker on your elections. I thank you for honouring gender balance it is quite important. It has been a long day and for some of us, it has been a great experience because this is not what I thought a Parliament would look like. But it is good that I saw it all and some of us have learnt from the process.

Mr Speaker, Honourable members, I want to bring to your knowledge the difficulty women are facing out there. I stand here as a representative, not only from my constituency, but for the women of this country. A lot of hopes are hanging on us and a lot is expected from us and this government. His Excellency the President believes in empowering women and that is why some of us left whatever we were doing to be here. Some us believe in that change and we can make an impact in our country. However, what will be more encouraging and my plea today is for the women to be given equal opportunity in this Well of Parliament to express ourselves in terms of bringing the difficulty women are facing. I am saying this because when you speak to the women of Sierra Leone, you would realise that they have got a wealth of knowledge and experiences, but their self-esteems are so low that they feel incapable of competing with men. I want to believe that thought has to change and it has to start here. I am from Constituency 008 and I am on record because I am the first female ever to represent that Constituency in this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it has been a challenge; it has been difficult; it has been a war, not only from my colleagues or my competitors, but also from the angle of being a woman. However, I want to encourage all my colleagues Honourable Members of Parliament that women should be given equal opportunity to represent our people. Today, I am a proud Sierra Leonean because I have been given the opportunity to represent my people as Honourable Member of Parliament. It would be a pleasure to go to my constituency and say no to male dominance. I am optimistic that with the performance I will make here, they will have no reason to elect male as Member of Parliament any more

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable members, I want to thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Members, from the speeches you have just heard, I am quite convinced that this Honourable House now stands at the threshold of change and change it shall be. Although I did say that I would recognise only two more speakers, but considering the fact that the Honourable

Veronica K. Sesay is the longest serving Member of Parliament, I want to make a special concession.

**HON. VERONICA K. SESAY:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am here to make my felicitations to you and my colleague, the Deputy Speaker of this House. But before I commence, I must say thanks to the Almighty God because it was not an easy journey the storm was very tough but now the storms are over. I have no doubt because I have known you for the past years. I know that you are a disciplinarian and I believe you will live to the expectations of the people of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as you can see on both sides of isle, you will notice that over **75%** of Members of this Parliament are new Members of Parliament. I want to inform all and sundry that Parliament is a learning place. This means that even if you come here with a doctorate degree, you have to learn how things are done here. This is a place of learning and we have our parliamentary register and and that is why you have been provided with a copy of the Standing Orders of this House. It is the Bible that can protect you in this House. I am serving my third term because I learnt so many things from others. Therefore, I want to implore the new Members of Parliament to learn and ask questions. Nobody is too big to learn and we should be ready to learn at all times. The Standing Orders is your Bible and you have to take it with you anywhere you go. You have to be consulting your Standing Orders because there are many things you need to learn.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you have to be patient with them because over **75%** of them are new. You have to be neutral in discharging your duties. Some people may be tempted to say there will be no neutrality because people are seeing you to be an SLPP, but no sooner you were elected as Speaker, we are expecting you to be neutral. You have to listen very well and take the right decision, so that we can move this country forward.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, people were saying that our President is a fake Brigadier; but today, we have the original brigadier. That was why we kept telling them that if you are saying this man is fake and he is not a Brigadier, we asked them to take

whatever they wanted to take, including the brigadier and give us S.O 2 'Maada.' We were going to make sure that we follow him to the latter. That is why we waited patiently for the 'Paopa Salone for betteh.' I believe that you will help 'Salone for betteh.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Mmember, I want to talk about the Deputy Speaker, Honourable Segepoh S. Thomas. I have no doubt that in him because he knows our problems in this House. In other words, he knows the problems Members of Parliament are facing. We have new and young Honourable Members of Parliament and they need to listen and learn. They also need to ask questions. Do not get scared, but continue to ask your Chairmen and the Speaker of this House relevant questions. The Speaker was one of us and he knows how Parliament works. You can ask the leaders of this House, including me, the mother of the House for tutorial. I will be there to give you my expertise and to make sure that we succeed as a Parliament.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you again and the guests for your patience. I want to also thank colleagues Honourable Members for taking part in the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker. I also want to thank those who abstained because it is their right. I want to even thank the person who voided his/her vote. That could be a mistake. I want thank everybody, including the party members who have waited patiently to witness this historic event.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to congratulate you once again, the Leader of Government Business and the women of this country. We are proud of you and we are here to make sure that we take the President by his words for the women of this country. We will be working with him side by side. I want to thank you very much from the bottom of my heart. I thank you all.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Member. By special dispensation of the Chair, I would like to give recognition to the very last Speaker for this evening, the Honourable Saa E. Lamina. You have the floor, Honourable Member.

**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable members, I am standing upon the rituals, traditions and the protocols of this Honourable House. My name is Saa Emerson Lamia, from Koindu City, Kono District. I must congratulate you on your landslide victory at the just concluded speaker's election.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the motto for Coalition for Change is 'Nation First' and we wish you and the Deputy Speaker well. I want to implore you to look at this Honourable House with the spectacle of gender parity; with the spectacle of youthful zest and inclusion; and with the spectacle of been diligent in discharging the Business of this Honourable House. We are coming from the deprived District of Kono. That District was severely hit during the 11 years interregnum. I want to believe that you will give requisite recognition of that District.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, permit me to stand on S.O. 23. Mr Speaker, when I completed University twelve years ago, I have been managing the mining company of the late Mr Ben Kanu, who was very closed to me. I knew him to be focused and a very disciplined man. We in the C4C believe in the slogan, 'you see for me, I see for you.' Once again, I must congratulate you for your election. I was fortunate to serve as Diplomatic Observer in the UK Parliament and I experienced lavishly the use of S.O. 30, when people from diverse beliefs were expressing their opinions. I have no iota of doubt that you will serve us well. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Member.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

*[The House rose at 4:40 p.m. and was adjourned to Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at 10 a.m.]*