



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING**

**THURSDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2019**

*SESSION – 2018/2019*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMEN TARY DEBATES**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

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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 on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

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

PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HON. HASSAN A. SESAY

BE IT RESOLVED:

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



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

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

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

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**Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.**

#### **I. PRAYERS**

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

*[The House met at 11:40 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]*

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

The House was called to Order

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE SPEAKER:** I hope you did not stand on this matter. I have not even asked for a seconder *[Laughter]*.

**HON. HASSAN SESAY:** Mr Speaker, I just want us to do the proper thing.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, it is part of the learning process.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I rise to amend the Order Paper. Item III is Laying of Papers, but I want to insert [ii] to read 'Note of Appreciation to the Chinese Embassy' and [iii] Thank you letter from Q-CELL Management. That is the amendment. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Acting Leader, I did not quite get you. Are you suggesting that we insert item III?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Yes, [ii] will be [iii]

**THE SPEAKER:** What would it read?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Note of Appreciation to the Chinese Embassy. Mr Speaker, for a broader scope we should not limit ourselves only to the Embassy. They are doing other good jobs in Sierra Leone and that is the reason we should include the Chinese Government.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** We want the Acting Leader to further educate us as to what format the appreciation would take. Is it just the laying of a paper or Members of Parliament are expected to say a word or two to the Chinese Government. We want clarification.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I am going to read on behalf of the Leadership and Parliament a note of appreciation. This is going to spell out everything they are going to do for the Sierra Leone Parliament. I am not going to encourage any debate because we have other items on the Order Paper to deal with. I am going to read, so that

Members of Parliament can understand what they have done and what they intend to do. What I intend to read is a 'Note of Appreciation to the Chinese Government.'

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, this does not call for a debate. I think this is a very straight forward matter. We have not yet amended the Order Paper, but I simply want to make my views known before we proceed. I think it is but fitting for the Acting Leader of Government Business to express appreciation on behalf of the entire House. The Honourable Member is going to read that on behalf of the entire House. I hope that meets your concurrence. I see you looking pensively Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** I was not going to ask for a debate, Mr Speaker. I was merely asking for clarification about the format of the 'Note of Appreciation.'

**THE SPEAKER:** Are you happy with that statement?

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** If I were the Leader of Government Business, I would have had an alternative to allow at least the opposition to say a word or two. We have also benefitted during our time from the Chinese Government.

**THE SPEAKER:** Well, this particular gift that has come to fruition had a beginning. We are simply seeing the beginning of the end now, but the beginning of the process that led to this gift I think rested with this side when they were in office. This is why I said once the Acting Leader of Government Business has spoken, there will be no need for a debate. I am sure he will choose his words very carefully, so as to ensure that he expresses the wishes of the entire House. After that, we will expect a statement of concurrence from the other side and both speeches should encapsulate the spirit of the House as a whole. This is not a partisan issue.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not know where Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo is coming from, but I believe we should focus on the bigger picture. The bigger picture here is Parliament and we have benefited so much from the Chinese Government. I am going to read from a well prepared script. For me, government is continuity and I do not need to be saying it every time. I am going to

read the letter and you will see exactly the short and long term goals we intend to achieve for this Honourable House.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Member. In the spirit in which we have been working, I want the seconder to come from another side.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, I so second.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Motion to amend the Order Paper has been carried]*

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, we are supposed to take a vote on this matter. If you look at the Order Paper, what you are saying is absent. I do not know, but something ought to be done. I want to know why that item is not included in today's Order Paper. From what you have said, this item was supposed to be captured on next week's Order Paper and not today. I think this House deserves to know something other than what we know now *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member, but instead of having it on the Order Paper, shall we deal with it when we come to Votes and Proceedings, please?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, our colleague on the other side has raised an issue, but I want to go with what you have said. We have to deal with it under Votes and Proceedings. We are very conscious of what we are doing *[Applause]*

## **II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2019**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. Honourable Members, pages 1, 2, 3 and 4 and the top part of Page 5 deals with the names of Members of Parliament; therefore, we can skip them. Let of start with the second half of Page 5. Honourable Members, do you have comments or amendments?

**HON. OSAIO KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, I want to correct the spelling of my name. My first name should be spelt 'O-s-a-i-o.' Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Noted, Honourable Member. Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? Page 11? Page 12? Page 13? If there is no other observation or comment would somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceeding for the parliamentary sitting held on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 as amended?

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

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. EDWARD GEORGE:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]  
[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on  
Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 has been adopted as amended]*

### **III. PAPER LAID**

THE DEPUTY LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

[A] GIFTS FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THE PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House gifts from the People's Republic of China to the Parliament of Sierra Leone *[Applause]*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of Parliament and the Government of Sierra Leone, I stand here to read 'the note of appreciation for the gifts granted to the Parliament of Sierra Leone by the Chinese Government. The Chinese Government has provided furniture, public address systems and carpets as gifts to Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone in accordance with Section 118, Sub-section [7] of the 1991 Constitution, Act No.6. In accordance with the final letter exchanged on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Chinese Government agreed to use Chinese grant assistance to provide Parliament of Sierra Leone a batch of materials which include:

- 390 chairs for the Chamber and the Gallery;
- 500 arm chairs for Committee Room 1 and the Conference Rooms;



- 10 Office Chairs, 6 Executive Chairs for the Leadership;
- 52 chairs for Conference room;
- 400 chairs for the State Hall;
- 150 microphones;
- Speakers and each audio equipment for the Chamber, Committee Room 1, State Hall and the Conference Room of the New Administrative Building;
- 250,000 meter square of green and red carpets for the leadership offices, the Members Lounge and the Chamber;
- 50 multipurpose tents;
- 2 air conditioners;
- 4 Laser jet printers; and
- 2 B and W photocopiers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Chinese Government completed the procurement and transportation of the above mentioned supplies to Freetown on the 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2018. A technical work of debugging and installation of the mentioned materials or equipment will be done by Chinese experts, which are done in the country in the last week of February. Work is expected to be completed by the end of March, 2019. The containers were delivered to Parliament and opened on the 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 in the presence of Chinese Embassy officials and stored in six stores in Parliament.

As a Government and as a Parliament, we are deeply appreciative of the Chinese commitment to the state and the people of Sierra Leone. We are particularly grateful to His Excellency, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Sierra Leone, Ambassador Wun Peng, the Commercial Counsellor and staff of the Chinese Embassy for such a great gesture to the Parliament of Sierra Leone. We will forever be grateful.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on our part, we thank the Human Resource Director of Parliament, Dr Abdul M'bawah for facilitating the process up to this point. Mr Speaker, we also extend our appreciation to those who have been involved not only Dr M'bawah from the previous Parliament up to this stage, we extend our appreciation to you all.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that this House expresses thanks and appreciation to the Chinese Government to show that this House is appreciative and we would continue to be in support of the Chinese Government. Thank you very much.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, in the true spirit of the sense of unity that has always been our hallmark in this House, I second the Motion on behalf of Parliament. It is not a novelty that the Chinese can come again yet to render help to us, so that we can adjust the issues of Sierra Leone, especially in a sector that is very useful and necessary in the promotion of good governance. We on this side will want to thank the Chinese Government, the Chinese Communist Party and all those who constitute the leadership of China for continuing to consider us as true friends.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you are aware of the fact that the friendship between Sierra Leone and China gathered momentum when Sierra Leone provided strong leadership to allow mainland China to be the true representatives of the Chinese people. Therefore, we are aware of the fact that up to this time, the Chinese Government has always continuously seen us as friends of the Chinese people. Now that they have given us these gifts, as a Parliament, I would, on behalf of the All People's Congress Party and indeed Parliament, join my colleagues on the other side to thank the Chinese Government for these gifts. As far as we are concerned, we on this side have always seen the Chinese people as our friends, not because of this new gesture, but because they have helped this country in diverse ways, including the award of scholarships to our citizens to study abroad, the development of the technology that is so necessary for our development and the good ties that have always brought the two countries together.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state very clearly that when my party, the APC was in governance, it took the decision to support the Chinese Government to be the true representatives of the Chinese people and it was done in good faith. We did not expect all of these, but we believed justice must be delivered. This is because you could not have ceased 1.2 billion people being represented by 18 million people in New

York. Therefore, we took a very firm position on that, even if it was seen as a risk to tilt that irregularity. We will not conclude this without mentioning the names of those who took part in the historic development that has led to this good relationship between us and China. The Foreign Minister at the time was S.A.J. Pratt, who played major role in the debate in New York to give justification why Sierra Leone believed that Mainland China should be the representative of the Chinese people. Ibrahim Taylor Kamara was then Permanent Representative and he took part in the debate and was very eloquent. Therefore, we on this side have good reason to continue to see the Chinese people as our good friends and we will continue to appreciate all what they have done for this country. He did not underestimate the fact that if we are talking about the infrastructural development of this country like new roads, the optical backbone, the telecommunication and etc., it is as a result of the furtherance of the Chinese love for Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of this House, particularly the All People's Congress, we appreciate the effort of even the present Government in continuing to promote the good relationship between us and China. I want to thank the Chinese Government very much. Mr Ambassador, we appreciate you and your Government. If we come one more time, I will ask for a little bit more and I do not want you to surprise because we are friends. Thank you very much, Mr speaker.

*[Question Put and Agreed to]*

**THE SPEAKER:** As a hallmark of appreciation of this House, may I invite all of us to stand and give a resounding applause for this assistance that we have received from the Chinese Government *[Applause across the Floor]*. Mr Ambassador, this House cannot thank you enough and please convey the unanimous appreciation of this House to your Government for this great gifts being rendered to us. We appreciate it and we thank you very much indeed.

[B] THANK YOU LETTER FROM Q'CELL MANAGEMENT

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House a thank you letter from Qcell Mobile Company Management *[Applause]*.

**IV. GOVERNMENT MOTION:**

MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HON. HASSAN A. SESAY

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Twenty-Sixth Report of the First Session 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 to be selected the most suitable and qualified persons to serve in public offices, met on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 and interviewed six Presidential Nominees for the following appointments:

[i] Two Members, Judicial & Legal Service Commission;

[ii] Two Members, Minerals Advisory Board;

[iii] Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation; and

[iv] Member, National Youth Commission.

*2. Procedure*

The Committee relied on specified documents provided by the nominees and other information obtained from the general public to conduct the hearings. Pertinent questions put to the nominees were related on their educational backgrounds, track records in pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and the nominees' visions for a successful and nationally productive tenure. Issues of suitability or otherwise were closely looked into by the Committee.

### 3. Twenty-Ninth Sitting Of The Committee On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019

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

*[i] Mr Sheku Ahmed Tejan Tamu, proposed Member, Judicial and Legal Service Commission*

Mr Sheku Ahmed Tejan Tamu is a retired Civil Servant who is recorded to have joined the Sierra Leone Civil Service in 1986 and retired as a Senior Permanent Secretary in 2014. He is currently a full time Lecturer, University of Makeni and a Part-time Lecturer, Institute of Public Administration and Management [IPAM].

Mr Sheku Ahmed Tamu was acclaimed by the Committee to have the requisite qualification and experience to serve as a Member of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission, having diligently served as Permanent Secretary in several Ministries. **"If I obtain the approval of Honourable Members, I promise to work to the best of my ability and to give the necessary professional advice to the Board."**

*[ii] Mr Michael Munda Laggah, proposed Member, Minerals Advisory Board*

Mr Michael Munda Laggah is a retired private sector worker with a wealth of experience in Administration and Human Resource Management. He had previously served at the Sierra Leone Ore and Mineral Company Limited, SIEROMCO Bauxite Mines, Mokanji, where he held various Executive positions between 1981-1990 that culminated in his appointment as Head of Administration and Human Resource 1990-1995. He also served at the Sierra Leone Bottling Company, commonly known as Freetown Cold Storage as Head of Administration and Human Resource from 1995-2013.

Reacting to probing questions, Mr Michael Laggah opined that the mining policies of this country need to be looked at. **"During my days at the Sierra Leone Ore and Mining Company SIEROMCO, I was involved in so many agreements at the local level with the community people, the national and international levels. From experience gathered at SIEROMCO coupled with my experience as Head of Administration and Human Resource at the Sierra Leone Bottling Company/Freetown Cold Storage, I think I would be able to make meaningful contributions on the Board,"** he said.

[iii] Mr Anthony Michael Borbor Aruna - Proposed Member, Judicial and Legal Service Commission

Mr Anthony Michael B Aruna is a veteran Civil Servant who joined the Civil Service in 1974 as a daily waged Clerk. He rose through the ranks and retired in 2015 as Acting Director of Human Resources, Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

Mr Anthony Aruna was commended across party lines as a seasoned Civil Servant who served in several Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies before his retirement. Reacting to further questions, he said that during his tenure as a Court Clerk: **"I worked closely with the Secretary to the Judicial Service Commission. Even when I was transferred to the Establishment Secretary's Office, I was handling all issues relating to the Judiciary. I believe I can adequately live up to expectations."**

[iv] P. C. Foday Stephen Kpakra Faba, proposed Member, Board of Trustees Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation [SLBC]

Paramount Chief Foday S. Faba is a traditional ruler who was elected Paramount Chief of Dodo Chiefdom, Kenema District in 2003. He has been the Chairman, Council of Paramount Chiefs, Kenema District, from 2015 to date.

Paramount Chief Foday Faba assured the Committee that he will collaborate with his colleague Board Members to improve the performance standard of the SLBC as the national broadcaster: **"I will insist on the acquisition of new equipment and training for the staff."**

[v] Mr Tejan Koroma, proposed Member, National Youth Commission

Mr Tejan Koroma is a Banker, employed at the EcoBank, Sierra Leone Limited. He is the Head of Card Operations/E-Banking and Business Continuity Manager, 2016 to date. Mr Koroma is a highly skilled professional with eight years of work experience in both the private and public sectors.

Answering to probing questions, Mr Tejan Koroma said the problem of youth in Sierra Leone today is that there is a high rate of unemployment and lack of capacity. **"For solutions, I would want to focus more on youth empowerment through**

**micro-financing schemes that would help them earn their living. Youth engaged in 'Okada' and 'Keke' business mostly obtain their vehicles on loan from Lebanese and Indian traders at high interest rates. A Government Micro Credit Finance Scheme for youth empowerment would be of enormous service to the youth,"** he said.

*[vi] Mr Abu Augustus Brima, proposed Member, Minerals Advisory Board*

Mr Abu A Brima is the Executive Director, Network Movement for Justice and Development [NMJD]. Mr Brima has amassed a wealth of experience with local and international NGOs operating in Sierra Leone.

Responding to probing questions, Mr Abu Brima said that the Act of the Minerals Advisory Board is weak and needs to be reviewed to meet with the modern realities in the mineral sector. The mandate of the Board, he said, **"is a very limited but a review of the Act would improve on the functions of the Board and make them stronger enough for Sierra Leone to benefit from its God-given endowments."** He said. Mr Brima promised to work collaboratively with other Board Members for the success of the Board.

*Recommendation[s]*

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] Mr Abu Augustus Brima, proposed Member, Minerals Advisory Board;

[ii] Mr Anthony M. B. Aruna, proposed Member, Judicial & Legal Service Commission;

[iii] Mr Sheku A. T. Tamu, proposed Member, Judicial & Legal Service Commission;

[iv] Paramount Chief Foday S. Faba, proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Broadcasting Cooperation;

[v] Mr Michael M. Laggah, proposed Member, Minerals Advisory Board; and

[vi] Mr Tejan Koroma, proposed Member, National Youth Commission.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Twenty-Sixth Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the Twenty-Sixth 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. HASSAN A. SESAY:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed]*

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are here today to approve nominees that have already been screened by the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service. I do not think much has to be said about them. If the President has thought it fit to nominate them, he must have done some research about them; and that besides, they have been scrutinised by the Committee. I want to ask my colleagues to hastily approve these nominees. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I do not know what you people think, but I think vibrancy is absent from the voice of the Honourable Member. The alert has not yet appeared. I think there seems to be complete unanimity on this one. This means we are going to wind up the debate because today seems to be a very special day. For the first time in this Parliament we have not had any active exchange of views and opinions by Members of Parliament. I think the message of no alert should be directed to whom it is concerned. Mr Clerk, I think there is unanimity that there is no alert. You know to whom that alert should be directed to. I hereby direct that you please inform the authority of the alert to make sure that something is done.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** We are going to be brief because my colleagues are anxious to address issues under S.O. 23. Mr Speaker, Chief Whip from our own side has made the point that we took part in the screening of these nominees. There was not much controversy in the screening process, especially when most of the appointees were institutional nominees and because of this, we found no difficulty at all. However, few of those institutions have to be upgraded or reformed. For example, the nominee for the SLBC is going there as a Member of the Board of Trustees. I want to state here that the Board of Trustees of the SLBC is different from an ordinary Board of Governors or Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Trustees are expected to be in office as



long as possible. They are not supposed to be removed. The Board of Trustees means that they should be in charge of the assets of the SLBC. However, we will continue to make the corrections as time goes on.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Abu Augustus Brima, proposed Member, Minerals Advisory Board. He has been a friend of mine over the years. It will be unfair if I fail to mention that here. He has always created the posture of a man who is interested in the welfare of this country, especially the mining sector. Some people saw him as a revolutionary in some respect; but apart from that, he has performed remarkably well in the area of protecting the minerals sector in this country. We think his nomination to be part of the Board of the Minerals Agency was deliberate on the part of the President because of his experience in the sector. I am sure other nominees are equally qualified. I am also sure the Paramount Chief was selected for a very good purpose.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to pay tribute to the man who was my Permanent Secretary when I was serving as the Minister of Information and Communications. That man provided leadership in landing the fiber cable in Sierra Leone when he was the Permanent Secretary in that Ministry. He single handedly organised more than six institutions within the Ministry for the purposes of enhancing the landing of the fiber cable, including several meetings abroad for the purposes of fine-tuning the whole aspect of landing the fiber optic cable in this country. Therefore, if we are talking about Fiber Cable, Sierra Leone Cables Limited and NATCOM, we should recognise the fact that Mr Sheku A. T. Tamu, proposed Member, Judicial & Legal Service Commission, played a major role in that area *[Applause]*. He proved to be a very fine administrator; a man who could bring people together; a man who understood what he was doing and a great academic.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you, Mr Speaker. We can now ask that these nominees are released, so that they can go to their various offices.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will not single out any of the nominees, but I would like to thank my

colleagues on the other side. You see sometimes it is good for us to have checkmates and they are our checkmates. I am saying this because they are checking us not out of malice, but in the interest of Sierra Leone. So, I admire and applaud the Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo who sometimes is good and sometimes controversial. I have nothing against him being controversial. I am very successful at the ACP Parliament because of their controversial nature.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not need to say much, but rather salute the nominees, especially Mr Anthony M. B. Aruna, proposed Member, Judicial & Legal Service Commission. If you look at his length of experience in the Civil Service, these are great people and I believe they can turn the tides by putting things in place.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you and the Honourable Member who seconded the Motion. I once again move that this Honourable House approve the nominees.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

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

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable members, we go to S.O 23. However, consistent with the spirit that has been eloquently demonstrated by the House, I wish on your behalf to congratulate the nominees and to wish them well in the execution of their new assignments. I want to remind them that it is not only the President who has reposed confidence in their abilities to perform, but this Honourable House. We do hold them in a very high esteem and we hope they will live up to the expectations of the President and this House and the people of this country. We wish you well.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 23. Mr Speaker, I want to bring a very serious matter for the attention of the Committee on Finance. Mr Speaker, some Banks in this country are embarrassing Members of Parliament, particularly ECO-BANK. Few months ago, I was in Bo and I withdrew some money from the ECO-BANK. I gave some bundles of ten thousand Leones notes to my contractor. He came later and told me that some notes were missing. I argued with him with the thought that he

wanted to cheat me. Later that day, I went to pay for cement and I experienced the same thing. I had to replace the sum of **Le250, 000**. That has been the normal practice. Also, I gave my office assistant money to send it for somebody. It was discovered that the money was incomplete. This is very embarrassing and the practice must stop. I kept wondering what is happening with the banks. If you do not trust somebody around you, you will be tempted to believe that the person is a thief or cheat. I want the Committee on Finance to treat this issue very seriously. I believe other people are affected, but they do not have the platform to express themselves. I am here this morning as their representative to talk on their behalf and to bring this issue to this House. This is the House that will bring them to book and tell them enough is enough. I thank you very much *[Applause]*

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O. 23. There are people outside who are in the habit of blackmailing others. A lot of people are using the names of Members of Parliament to steal from people.

**THE SPEAKER:** Not only Members of Parliament. I received a call that affected the Clerk of this House this morning.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, they are not just using names of Members of Parliament, but even staff of Parliament. I want to bring this to the notice of the general public that I Honourable Bashiru Silikie would never call somebody and ask for **Le1mln** or **Le500, 000**. I have reported this matter to the Criminal Investigation Department [CID] and the issue is under investigation for the past three months. On behalf of Members of Parliament, I want to inform the public that we do not extort moneys through phone calls. People should not listen or honour any request from them. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** This is very important and we hope the media will do us the kindness of conveying that message to the general public. I have been victim of 4|1|9 myself and just this morning, I received telephone calls that concerned the Clerk of this House. We will be very grateful to the media if they convey this message as forcefully as they

can. Let the public know that no Member of Parliament will ever ask for money from a member of the public for anything. I mean if any Member is so disposed, let them make sure that they are in a position to verify that it is indeed a Member of Parliament who is asking for that money. There are ways they can do it without having to rely wholly and solely on the telephone calls that have been received by them. It is very embarrassing.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, let me make an addendum to that. I think in 2010 or 2010, there was an instruction given to all the mobile companies in this country to debar people from using unregistered SIM cards. If this is continuing on a daily basis, I think the mobile companies should do something. Few weeks ago, I was a victim and the sum of **Le1mln** was stolen away. This same 4|1|9er called me. He had a similar voice to that of the ACC Boss, Mr Francis Ben Kelfala. The 4|1|9ers even called the Ambassador to Senegal. They told him that Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma and I wanted money. Also, my brother-in-law in Dubai, Rashid Sesay also confirmed. I want us to invite the mobile companies to ask them if they are now allowing people to use unregistered SIM Cards. For security reasons, they should stop allowing people who are using unregistered SIM Cards.

**THE SPEAKER:** Shall we then refer this matter to the Select Committee concern?

**HON. MATTEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think we have spoken about this issue. There is the Cybercrime Unit at NATCOM. Few days ago, they told me they would investigate this particular matter. Some of the SIM cards are registered, but not in the name of the person using it. They registered the SIM cards using different names. Therefore, it is very difficult to apprehend them. In that regard, we have decided to meet the Ministry of Information and Communications and NATCOM. We are also going to ask for re-registration, so that we can track those criminals. I also want the mobile companies to start registering SIM cards before the buyers start using them. They should be registered before taken away. In that regard, we are going to ask for re-registration of SIM cards, so that we can track those criminals, otherwise we are just fighting a losing battle.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, I am very certain that the Chairman of that Committee will handle this matter relating to fraud. However, on behalf of this side, we are very concerned as a party about the kind of information that is being circulated that members of our party, without exemption, beat and humiliated journalists. We want this to be recorded that it is not part of our policy as a party to humiliate journalists. We see journalists in this country as partners in the development of this country. I have been a journalist and I know the importance of journalism. I think some people are trying to give the impression that journalists were beaten and that impression must be corrected *[Applause]*. We have recently ruled this country for ten years I want to see a journalist who would say he/she was humiliated when we were in power.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I was the Minister of Information and Communications, I piloted quite a number of legislations in order to ensure that there is freedom of expression in this country. I see no reason why the APC should undertake an enterprise aiming at humiliating journalists. We want the journalists to continue to see us as friends. I have gone to the United Nations to commit this country during the Peace Commission meetings in New York for Sierra Leone to continue promoting freedom of expression and that was the first step towards the creation of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation [SLBC]. We allowed the public to own the SLBC and they owned it even when we were in office. In fact, they criticised us and nobody was humiliated for that. I was a member of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists [SLAJ]. I fought for one of my journalists when he was humiliated and he died in the process. I will not be a party to any activity that will suggest that our party has no regard for the freedom of journalists. Indeed we have freedom of expression as part of our policy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want the journalists to understand that I Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo and all of us will not be a party to any activity that will humiliate journalists. This is because they are part of the development process. Today,

if you see journalists in the Gallery, I created it, because I said that journalist too should be part and parcel of the governance structure of the state.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, I think your point is well made and well taken, but I really would urge you to speak not only on your behalf and on behalf of the Honourable Members present here, but on behalf of the generality of the membership of the party you represent.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Well, that is what I am doing exactly, Mr Speaker. The APC party does not have a policy of humiliating journalists. If an individual commits an offence of that nature, we discipline him, but it is not our policy. So, I would want this to be noted for the records. We want it to be in the Hansard that the All Peoples Congress [APC] party does not believe in humiliating journalists. The APC party sees journalists as partners in the development of this country. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, you are making a very important point. I think it is a matter of public interest; and if I were in your position, I would have cautioned Members of my party who are alleged to have committed such acts that disciplinary action would be taken against them *[Applause]*

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, we have a structured system within the APC party, but I take your advice in good faith. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I want to recognise those who struggled to get my attention.

**HON. EMMANUEL SAIDU CONTEH:** Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O. 23. In December, 2018 I met you in your office to address an issue relating to the rehabilitation of the pedestrian walkway at Congo Town Bridge. I want to inform you that since you spoke to the engineer, nothing has been done. However, somebody in the community managed to repair the most damaged area, but I want to ask if you could continue the negotiation with the roads authority to address that problem. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** In that regard, I want to kindly ask you to come to my office, so that we can pursue that matter

**HON. IBRAHIM CONTEH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O 23. His Excellency the President briefly visited my constituency on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 at Makali. The purpose for his visit was to commission an ultramodern medical facility in that chiefdom and that health facility has the potential to treat 7,000 people. Mr Speaker, though the visit was brief and I was not privilege to give a speech, but I was recognised. His Excellency told us to take ownership of the facility, even though there were some other things that are lacking. I had a fruitful discussion with the Chairperson of the Committee on Health. He was very receptive and we agreed to discuss other issues for onward transmission to the Minister of Health.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the visit lasted for forty minutes, but it was very important and His Excellency was very clear about the drugs. He asked us to take care of the hospital together with the equipment. He also advised the workers not to take anything out of that hospital. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member.

**HON. DR MARK M. KALOKOH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on Sections 95 and 101 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. On the 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2019, before Parliament was adjourned, you made an order for the detention of Dr Vibbi till the next adjourned date. On the 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2019, however, we were at a meeting in Committee Room 1 when we saw Dr Vibbi and the Chief Whip. Honourable Hassan A. Sesay asked Dr Vibbi to leave the Room. He said Dr Vibbi should not participate in the hearings. We were perplexed when we saw somebody who has defied the authority of this House. This man should be in detention, Mr Speaker. We want clarification on that issue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I stated early, I go to Section 101. Mr Speaker, Section 101 of the 1991 Constitution talks about humility. If Dr Vibbi defied Parliament and was detained, we want to know why he was released *[Applause]*. As a Member of Parliament, I am worried. We have to ensure that people take this House seriously *[Applause]*. It is an Arm of Government and we need to treat issue very seriously. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, on this particular matter, I wish to extend an invitation to the Leaders of all the political parties represented in Parliament to meet with me in my Chambers immediately sitting is adjourned. I am inviting the Leaders of all political parties represented here.

*Suspension of S.O 5[2]*

**THE SPEAKER:** In the best interest of decorum, I want to notify the Acting Leader of the Opposition that this enclave is going to be rearranged [*Laughter*].

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, with consultation with our own Leadership Sir, but some are my advisers, and they have to be very close to me.

**THE SPEAKER:** In that case, you have terrible advisers, I must say [*Laughter*]. As I said in response to the S.O 23 raised by the Honourable Member, I am inviting Leaders of all political parties represented in this House to meet with me in my Chambers immediately we adjourn this sitting.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member raised a very serious and important issue about Honourable Shiaka M. Sama. You have to read Section 101, but not forgetting also Section 100 of the 1991 Constitution. This is not the first time such is happening to Parliament. I want to ask Mr Speaker to talk with police on that matter. This has to do with the immunity of Members of Parliament and that can only be lifted by the Speaker of Parliament with request from the Executive. I do not want us to open a Pandora's Box. The Speaker has done the request from the first gentleman of this nation, but please leave it with the Executive. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I will endeavour to combine the two issues the Honourable Member has raised. I will address both issues with the Leaders of the political parties [*Applause*].

**HON. JOHN C. CONTEH:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to bring to the notice of this House a very serious issue in my Constituency. I was called by my Section Chief to draw my attention to a Chinese Mining Company in my Constituency without any knowledge of the inhabitants, especially the land owners. Mr Speaker, due to the



mining activities of that company in the area, the livelihood of the people has seriously been affected. In fact, the Mabolah River has been polluted and now the people do not have access to safe drinking water. That besides, this company is operating without the knowledge of land owners. This is worrisome and the people want to go on the rampage, but I told them to hold on till I discuss the issue with colleagues in this House. I went to the National Mineral Agency [NMA] to ask about the legality of the company's operations in my Constituency and I was told that the NMA gave them concession licenses to operate. I was told that the company that was given concession to operate in that locality is A.M MAGO. This Chinese Company has a portion of land to operate, but they have destroyed the land in that area. I have videos to show and the people are crying for help. They call me on a daily basis and if you look at that river, it flows across Makeni. Again, the District Chairman called to inform me about this issue. Mr Speaker, due to the seriousness of this issue, I want to move a Motion.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, Honourable Member.

**HON. JOHN C. CONTEH:** Mr Speaker, I want you to help me solve this issue.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, this is how I will help you. Now that you have raised this issue in the House as a first step and I will urge you to visit the Minister and bring this issue to his attention. I want you to enquire the bases on which the Chinese are mining in your constituency. Please make more enquiries, but if you are still not satisfied, come and see me about it.

**HON. JOHN C. CONTEH:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and may God bless you.

**HON. PAUL S. SAM:** Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 23. I listen to a radio programme yesterday on Radio Democracy 98.1. The panellists were discussing about the expansion of that radio station which Umaru Fofanah launched yesterday. I want to plead with Honourable Members of this House to also be part of that project. We have to support Radio Democracy with whatever little we have. Some people have started donating computers and other items. I want Members of Parliament to be part of this project. Radio Democracy is one of the widely listened radio stations in this city. So, I

want Honourable Members to know that even **Le100, 000** will also be appreciated. I think the journalists are also supporting the Government to succeed. I want Members of Parliament to be part of the project Radio Democracy is undertaking this year. I want to thank you very much for being part of the development of radio stations. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**HON. RTD CAPT. HAFIJU M. KANJA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O 23. Three weeks ago, I brought to the knowledge of this House the existence of a police checkpoint in Masingbi. I said that checkpoint has been asking traders entering Masingbi from my Constituency to pay **Le 5,000** before they are allowed. Also, my constituency has no fuel station. People usually buy fuel in containers from Magburaka or Makeni and transport same to that particular constituency. As we speak, my people are paying for every container of twenty litres the sum of **Le 10,000**. The Deputy Speaker of this House asked the Chairman of the Committee on Internal Affairs to look into this issue and report to this House. Well, I have never heard anything relating to that issue since then. My people are paying for their goods before they are allowed to sell. As I said the other day, I took it up with Honourable PC Bai Kurr Kanagbaro Sanka III a month ago and he had actually asked them to remove that checkpoint. He even took me to the Local Unit Commander [LUC] in Magburaka and the LUC promised to remove it. I want to report again that the checkpoint is still there. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, did I hear you say that you had brought that matter to the attention of the Deputy Speaker who directed the Chairperson of the Internal Affairs Committee to look into the issue?

**HON. RTD CAPT. HAFIJU M. KANJA:** Yes, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is the Chairman of that Committee here?

**HON. ALUSINE KANNEH:** Mr Speaker, the day the Inspector General of Police [IGP] came for the meeting concerning former Vice President, Chief Alhaji Sam Sumana's security, the meeting was very chaotic. I spoke to the IGP on the issue and he

promised to invite the police for more deliberations. I will invite the IGP again with the police officers.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, with all due respect, that is not good enough. It has been days now and you have still not been able to pursue this issue further.

**HON ALUSINE KANNEH:** Yes, Mr Speaker. The IGP has been very busy with security matters and that has brought this delay.

**THE SPEAKER:** The IGP has a deputy and other senior officers he could delegated this responsibility to them.

**HON. ALUSINE KANNEH:** Yes, Mr Speaker, but I will report accordingly.

**THE SPEAKER:** I want it recorded that the Chairman of the Select Committee on Internal Affairs owes a report to this House at the next adjourned date concerning this particular issue.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, Mr Speaker.

**HON. JOSEPH A. B. KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have a huge deposit of gold in my constituency that is encouraging migration. I have severally been informed by my constituents that foreigners are indiscriminately mining in my Constituency. To me, this is a security threat and I want to bring it to the attention of this House. I would like the appropriate Committee to investigate the situation. I have however started engaging the Chairman of the Committee on Mines. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I think you should not stop there, Honourable Member. You should also bring it to the attention of the Minister.

**HON. JOSEPH A. B. KAMARA:** Noted, Mr Speaker. I will get to the Minister and inform him about this issue. Also, I will inform the Immigration Officers because they are dealing with foreigners who are miners. I think this is an internal security threat and we must work towards addressing the situation. I am reporting this issue because I am on the borderline. The exact location of the place is about 31 miles from Bo. We are

experiencing heavy influx of people migrating into that area. The citizens are constantly reporting the presence of these foreigners and I considered that as a very serious security threat that should be looked into. I thank you.

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

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as the prodigal son of Kambia District, I want to however say I represent a Constituency in this country.

**THE SPEAKER:** Where is the Prodigal son?

**HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA:** I will explain later, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, the issue affecting people of Magbema Chiefdom, specifically in Rokuprr town needs to be brought to the attention of this House. The bridge leading to Makati, one of the major roads leading to Mambolo from Rokuprr is badly damaged. School going children are using that road to go to one of the biggest schools in Rokuprr. The bridge is a death-trap with lots of security threats. Mr Speaker, although the inhabitants are managing the bridge, I want to however bring this issue to the attention of this House. As I said earlier, the bridge is a death trap for vehicles and pupils using that road to go to school. The main road from Mange to Thala, which is my village, has collapsed and we cannot access Mange using that bridge.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to report here that there is checkpoint at Katik Junction within the same Chiefdom, but that checkpoint is a problem to commercial bike riders, otherwise known as 'Okadas.' The police have increased fare on the people going to Bamoi Loma. It is a major trade route and I want to call on the attention of the Committee on Internal Affairs to intervene. It is a major road linking Bamoibana to Bamoi Loma. There is no security threat, but the checkpoint is a burden on the poor people of Munu and Thala Chiefdoms. Therefore, I call on the Chairman of the Committee on Internal Affairs to intervene. I think the removal of that checkpoint will be very important and acceptable. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, I rise on S.O 23. I want to draw the attention of this House to rumours going round that everybody has been dismissed at the

National Registration Office. I only hope it remained to be rumours. This is because that is a very crucial institution when it comes to registration and national security. This is a matter of concern not only to me, but to many Sierra Leoneans.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, let us take the proceedings of this House to a higher level, so that the public will take us serious. Let us refrain from entertaining rumours and bringing rumours to the Well of this House. What I would advise when a Member of Parliament receives such information as rumours, is that you have to confirm with the Minister in charge to get the correct information about what is happening before you bring that issue to the Well of this House. We cannot act on rumours and we should not continue to denigrate the status of this House.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, I know we are not dealing with rumours in this House. I hope it remains to be rumours as we are hearing, so that we have nothing to do with it in this House.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, with the greatest deference to you, you are not an ordinary Member of Parliament. You occupy a position of Chief Whip of your Party in this House and I would ask you to restrain from bringing rumours.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Noted, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. I really want to put an end to S.O 23.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I wanted to add what the Chief Whip has emphasised. We are not operating here on rumours at all. I agree with you, but the concern expressed by the Honourable Member could become part of the proceedings of this House. In that regard, the Honourable Member brought the issue up to inform this House.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, 'Question Time' is already part of the proceedings of this House.

**HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO:** I hope it will commence very soon.

**HON. MOHAMED S. KASSIM-CAREW:** I want to speak on behalf of all parliamentarians. Mr Speaker, there are Ministers who are taking us for granted. I believe we are the political heads in our constituencies and when a Minister is undertaking any activity in our constituencies, we should be involved. The Ministers are interfering a lot and it is not good development. This is not about politics, but for the good of all and sundry. We owe a duty to our people, Mr Speaker. There are thousands of jobs at the Queen Elizabeth II Quay and we are aware of the fact that there is a temporal ban on employments, but recruitments are ongoing secretly. If the ban has been lifted, we want to know. I know there is a ban, but employment is ongoing. There also the problem of hiring and firing people with no good reasons. People are losing their jobs because they associate themselves with APC party.

Mr Speaker, Honourable members, I want to remind colleagues that this is not a rubber-stamp Parliament. We need to come together, so that Executive will know that Members of Parliament are the political heads in their respective constituencies. I am just talking aloud because I know my rights. I will not sit and allow somebody to trample on my rights. I am saying this because it affects every Member of Parliament. I rest my case.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for the information and I would invite him to see me in my Chambers afterwards.

Honourable Members, I want to bring to the attention of this House that the Honourable Osman Timbo is bereaved. He has lost his father recently I want us to rise and observe a minute of silence in memory of the late Chief Justice Timbo. May his soul rest in perfect peace [A minute of silence prayers was observed].

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*[The House rose at 12:40 p.m. and was adjourned to Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.]*