

*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

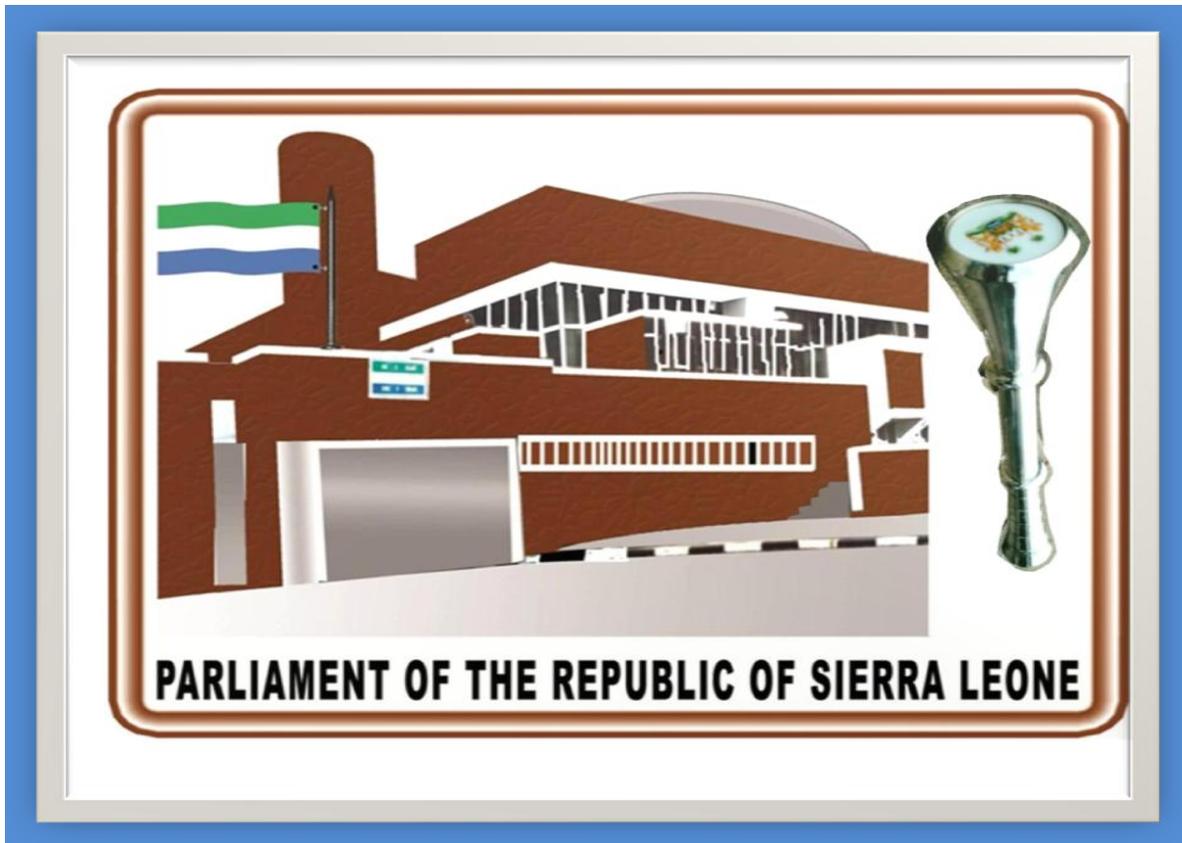
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING**

**THURSDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST, 2018**

*SESSION – 2018/2019*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMETARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

**NUMBER: 17**

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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 Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2018.

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

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**Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2018.**

**I. PRAYERS**

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

*[The House met at 10:40 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]*

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

The House was called to Order

**II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING, HELD ON TUESDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2018.**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, as usual we shall proceed as quickly as we can.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, I thought we must raise this issue again about the late issuance of the Order Paper. I have made this point in the past and our side has made this point consistently that we have difficulty with the activities of the Secretariat of this Parliament. Whenever documents come to us late, we may find it very difficult to participate effectively. I want to plead, on behalf of our own side, that we fast-track the process of distributing very important documents on time.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, your plea is noted and I would like the secretariat to take note of that. We shall now proceed. Page 5? Page 6?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, the Leader of the House was asking me some questions. So, I want to go back to Page 5, the first paragraph. It is not Acting Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. I do not want the Deputy Speaker to hold me to account for his Committee. It should be Committee on Appointments and the Public Service.

**THE SPEAKER:** Clerks-At-The-Table, how could you have made such a mistake? Correction noted, Honourable Member. Page 6? Page 7?

**HON. MAMOUD M. KALOKOH:** Page 7, Mr Speaker, under 'Question Proposed.' I am not Mohamed, but Mamoud. My Kalokoh should have an 'a' and 'h.' I am not representing Constituency 037, but Constituency 032. So, I do not want to go and double myself with my Deputy Whip. Please take note of that. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Correction noted, Honourable Member. Page 8?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Page 9, under 'Announcement by the Clerk of Parliament, Honourable Umar Paran Tarawally.' I can see CDF anybody reading that

document will interpret it as Civil Defence Force. It should be Constituency Development Fund [CDF].

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Member. We go to Page 10. There being no other correction or amendment, would somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 as amended?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I so move.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. REV. ISHMAIL S. SANDY:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question, Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Record of Votes and Proceeding for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 has been adopted as amended]*

### **III. PAPERS LAID**

[A] THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE

**MR ABDULAI M. BANGURA** *[Deputy Attorney General and Minister of Justice]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, permit to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following documents:

[i] Commission of Inquiry [Examination Inquiry and Investigation], Notice [1], 2018  
Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991 [Act No.6 of 1991]  
Constitutional Instrument No.64 of 2018

[ii] Commission of Inquiry [Examination Inquiry and Investigation], Notice [2], 2018  
Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991 [Act No.6 of 1991]  
Constitutional Instrument No.65 of 2018

[B] THE CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

HON. SEGEPOH SOLOMON THOMAS

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, asset declaration is pivotal in the fight against corruption. Therefore, as the people's representatives, we

should be interested in the concerns raised around this particular process. As Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of this House, I hereby, with your leave, lay on the Table of this House the following document:

Management Report on the Audit of Asset Declaration Regime in Sierra Leone, 2014-2016

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

PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON MATHEW S. NYUMA

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE ELEVENTH 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

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Eleventh 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, cognizance of its constitutional responsibilities, met on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> July and July 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2018 and interviewed forty-one presidential nominees for Ambassadorial and other appointments:

##### *2. Procedure*

The Committee maintained strict consistency with its established procedure. The nominees were interviewed on issues pertaining to their educational background to ensure that they have the relevant education and necessary backup experience to man such important offices of state. Further probing questions put to the nominees covered wide ranging issues relating to their track records in pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a nationally productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were closely looked into by the Committee.

##### *3. Article 8 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations*

Before the commencement of the hearings, the attention of the nominated Ambassadors and High Commissioners was drawn to Article 8[1-3] of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961.

1. Members of the Diplomatic staff of the mission should, in principle, be of the nationality of the sending state;
2. Members of the Diplomatic staff of the Mission may not be appointed from among persons having the nationality of the receiving state, except with the consent of that state which may be withdrawn at any time; and
3. The receiving state may reserve the same right with regards to nationals of a third state who are not also nationals of the sending state.

*4. Twelfth Sitting of the Committee on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.*

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

*[i] Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai, proposed Permanent Representative, Sierra Leone Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York*

Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai is a Development Specialist with over thirty-years professional and management experience in leadership positions, providing strategic direction in planning, coordinating, implementation and monitoring regional/rural development programmes, developing and coordinating post-conflict resettlement, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes, developing and implementing a national disarmament, demobilisation and poverty reduction strategies, resource mobilisation and setting up and managing the Development Assistance Coordination Office that assisted the resettlement programme.

Reacting to the prompts of the Committee, he said, **"on climate change, I hold the view that climate change is a global issue, particularly to poor countries that do not have the requisite infrastructure to deal with the calamities that come with it. If I may bring that down to the situation in Sierra Leone, the issue of climate change is evident. Our geography is changing and I hope that our compatriots in the Universities are thinking seriously about it. We used to have distinct rainy and dry seasons, but nowadays, we see more rains in the**

**rainy seasons and the patterns have changed more dramatically. In the Western Area for instance, because of deforestation, we now experience more problems resulting in heavy down pour of rains. Clearly, these are issues that need to be arrested. There may be countries in the world that doubt the challenges posed by climate change, but we should be among those countries that support the view that the global consequences of climate change should not be ignored."**

Dr Kaikai fully agreed with the Committee's concerns on the issue of economic diplomacy which he said: **"Sierra Leone is a poor country. We have potentials to raise a lot of resources domestically, but unfortunately, it is never enough. Our problems are getting more complex and resolving them requires a lot more resources. So, striking good relationship out there and making sure that the interest of Sierra Leone is pursued would be of benefit to our country. And going to New York, part of my brief is specifically to explore for strategic partnership, advocacy and relationships that would yield benefit to Sierra Leone."**

*[ii] Mr Umaru Dumbuya, proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration*

Mr Umaru Dumbuya is a Public Sector Management expert. He is currently serving as the Deputy Chairman and Leader of the Sierra Leone People's Party [SLPP]. Members observed that Mr Dumbuya was suddenly taken ill in a previous session, but was appearing to complete his interview process.

Answering to the Committee's inquiries, Mr Dumbuya promised to work to the best of his ability for the success of the Maritime Administration and the country.

*[iii] Madam Lucretia Marian Shereef, proposed High Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commission to Banjul, The Gambia*

All the female Members of the Committee expressed infinite confidence in the ability of Madam Lucretia Shereef to deliver. She was described as "a pusher, a maker, multiplier, developer, performer and above all, a disciplinarian who is going out to represent the

womenfolk of Sierra Leone, to do better than any man has ever done." She was admonished to give of her best.

*iv. Mr Ernest M'baimba Ndomahina, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Beijing, China*

Mr Ernest M'baimba Ndomahina is well known entrepreneur and businessman with proven skills in fund raising and project management. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer, Kona Group of Companies.

Reacting to the Committee's inquiries, Mr Ndomahina said that as an entrepreneur, he would endeavour to promote and strengthen economic diplomacy with China: **"Sierra Leone is a poor country with a small Economy. I will do my best to explore for opportunities for Direct Foreign Investments, including the establishment of Chinese factories in Sierra Leone."**

*v. Mrs Frances Virginia Anderson, proposed High Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commission, Accra, Ghana*

Mrs Frances Virginia Anderson is inclined towards Tourism and Hotel Management and has a wealth of experience in sales management, sale planning and forecasting. From September to November 2017, she was the General Manager, Lungi Airport Hotel.

The Chairman excused himself from the interview because of his relationship to Mrs Frances Virginia Anderson, and handed over the Chairmanship to Honourable Veronica K. Sesay. The female Members of the Committee expressed confidence in the ability of the nominee to perform and to deliver because she had a proven record as an entrepreneur. The male Members concurred with their female counterparts and gave their support.

*vi. Ambassador Alie Badara Kamara, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Tehran, Iran.*

Ambassador Alie Badara Kamara is a career diplomat with demonstrated ability to lead, organise, plan, control and, he is a result-oriented person. He is currently the Managing Director of Wudes Construction and General Enterprises.

In his response to the Committee's inquiries, Ambassador Badara Kamara said that he had served as an Ambassador before and he was quite au fait with foreign diplomacy. **"I have a wealth of experience in diplomacy and with my background as a Muslim, I think I will be able to tap on many areas that would be of benefits to our country. In Iran, I would be representing Sierra Leone and all Sierra Leoneans and I will do my best to improve on the already existing bilateral relations with all the countries I am accredited to,"** he said.

*vii. Dr M'Baimba Lamin Baryoh, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Berlin, Germany*

Dr M'baimba Lamin Baryoh is a certified surgeon specialist with over fifty years of successful practice as orthopedic surgeon, general surgery, and anesthesiology. He is currently serving as Chairman of the Sierra Leone Medical and Dental Council. He is also a recipient of the Insignia award of Grand Commander of the Order of Rokel [GCOR] for his invaluable contributions in the field of Medicine and the Medical Council in Sierra Leone.

Dr Baryoh was acclaimed across party lines as a highly respected patriot who has contributed in no small measure to save the lives of many compatriots, including several members of the interviewing panel. He is also the winner of several awards nationally and internationally. He was admonished to continue the good works in the name of Sierra Leone.

*viii. Dr Brima Patrick Kapuwa, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

Dr Brima Patrick Kapuwa is a professional in International Relations and Diplomacy. He is currently a Senior Lecturer and Head of Department, Department of Sociology and Social Work, School of Social Sciences, Njala University, Sierra Leone.

Answering to probing questions, Dr Kapuwa deposed that he was an expert in international Relations and Diplomacy. He believed that he has the requisite qualifications and experience and he had the opportunity to interact at international fora. **"With a degree in international relations particularly focused on African**

**diplomacy and foreign policy, I think I can add a new face to African diplomacy,”** he said.

*ix. Dr Sao-Kpato Hannah Isatta Max-Kyne, proposed Deputy Commissioner, National Commission for Social Action*

Dr Saa-Kpato Hannah Isata Max-Kyne is a policy and Development expert who has a wealth of experience in research, planning and management. She is currently the Assistant Director General for Policy and Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Dr Hannah Max-Kyne was also acclaimed across party lines as a proven performer who has been nominated to a familiar terrain. She was admonished to draw on her accumulated knowledge and experience, and to bring out all her expertise to take NaCSA to a higher level. In her response, Dr. Hannah Max-Kyne promised not to betray the confidence reposed in her. **“I will do my best to live up to expectations,”** she said.

*x. Mr Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina- Proposed High Commissioner, London, United Kingdom.*

Mr Tamba John Lamina is a certified health professional with over thirty years of experience in health care services, complex palliative and dementia care needs. He also has work experience in financial management, administrative and strategic management.

Reacting to the Committee’s inquiries, Mr Lamina deposed that he has lived and worked in the United Kingdom for 28 years. He prided himself to have held management positions in both the public and private sectors in the U.K. and has made very good friends. On the issue of his vision, he said: **“I believe my first duty would be to make the Embassy a significant one. I say so because over many years there has been what was referred to as sub-standard representation. Before coming here, I actually met with a former British High Commissioner, Mr Hayes. We had a dialogue and we developed a road map. Part of that road**

**map is aimed at strengthening the political and traditional ties that had existed between the U.K. and Sierra Leone,”** he said.

*xi. Alhaji Banie Eillah Seisay, proposed Member, Public Service Commission*

Alhaji Banie Eillah Seisay is a career Civil Servant. He entered the service as Administrative officer [cadet] officer in 1983. He rose through the ranks and retired as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy in 2014.

Reacting to the prompts of the Committee, Alhaji Banie Eillah said that he had served as a Civil servant for 32 years. **“And I acquitted myself very well. That did not let me neglect my domestic commitments but my loyalty had always been to the State,”** he said.

*xii. Mr Saffa Wuya Rogers, proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Beijing, China*

Mr Saffa Wuya Rogers is a public sector management expert with work experience in Sale Management and Marketing. He is currently the Sales Specialist, Wells Fargo Bank, West Lake, Texas, United States of America.

Answering to probing questions, Mr Rogers said that he had studied in China and was competent in the language and the culture. He said: **“Language can be a powerful tool that could enable me to do business with the Chinese in their local language. In terms of policies, I did International Relations and International Politics.”** He assured the Committee that he was going to build bridges between China and Sierra Leone in terms of policies and diplomacy.

*xiii. Mr Eddie Sidikie Massally, proposed Ambassador Sierra Leone Embassy, Monrovia Liberia*

Mr Eddie Massally is a Public Administrator with enviable experience in administrative management and accounting. He is currently serving as the District Chairman, Sierra Leone People’s Party, and Pujehun District.

Answering to probing questions, Mr Massally said, **“If I obtain the approval of this Honourable House, the protection of Sierra Leoneans in Liberia is going to be my utmost concern. I plan to be travelling frequently across the Sierra Leone**

– Liberian border to know what bottlenecks that are impeding the free movement of people.”

*xiv. Mr Samuel Tamba Musa, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium.*

Mr Samuel Tamba Musa is a Development Management expert, particularly in the area of international development programmes, project planning and management. He is currently a Consultant to several multi-lateral organisations like USAID, Oxfam, Child Fund, DFID, UNDP and the World Bank.

Responding to the Committee’s inquiries, Mr Musa said that he would like to start with the purpose of sending an Ambassador to Belgium. **“The purpose,”** he said, **“is about promoting direct trade and investment in Sierra Leone. My starting point would be to do some stakeholder analysis on the companies that have businesses in developing countries. Once that is done, I would begin to focus on trade, trade mission, and the opportunities that exist out there that could be exploited for the benefit of Sierra Leone.”**

Mr Musa promised to draw on his experience working for the European Union [EU] for the success of his mission.

*xv. Alhaji Brima Elvis Koroma, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Dakar Senegal*

Alhaji Brima Elvis Koroma is a teacher, administrator and politician of no mean standing. He is currently serving as Director of External Relations of the ruling Sierra Leone People’s Party.

Alhaji Brima Koroma was acclaimed across party lines as a true patriot. The opposition Leader said: **“I have known Alhaji Koroma for almost thirty years. I can vouch for his patriotism and commitment to serve in whatever capacity. He has been my constituent for a very long time, but his love and support for his party was never diluted. He has always been committed to his party. I am sure if he is given the opportunity to go to Senegal, he will serve Sierra Leone**

**with diligence, commitment and passion. I want to encourage all to support his nomination.”**

*xvi. Mr Alimamy Hassan Bangura, proposed Ambassdor, Sierra Leone Embassy, Conakry, Guinea*

Mr Alimamy Hassan Bangura was until recently a member of the noble profession of classroom teacher. He is currently the Deputy Director of Administration of the ruling Sierra Leone People’s Party.

The nomination of Mr Alimamy Hassan Bangura was readily accepted across party lines because of the good works he is known to have done at the national level.

*xvii. Mr Hamid Taal, proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Conakry, Guinea*

Mr Hamid Taal is a school teacher, a cattle rearer and a Politician. He also has proven knowledge in business. He is currently a Lecturer at the Kofi Annan University De Guinea.

Reacting to the promptings of the Committee, Mr Hamid Taal said that he had a mindset that it is extremely difficult to single-handedly do any work that is meant for two. He promised to work collaboratively with his boss, the substantive Ambassador for the success of the Mission.

*xviii. Mr Kathos Jibao Mattai, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy Seoul, South Korea*

Mr Kathos Jibao Mattai is a certified Health Care Practitioner with twenty years work experience in Health Care management and disease control. He is currently serving as a Health care official in Brooklyn, New york, USA.

Answering to the Committee’s inquiries, Mr Mattai said: **“Diplomacy and bilateral cooperation are part of my mission. I know that the South Koreans are very much interested in Sierra Leone’s marine resources. On the other hand, the South Koreans are very good in electronics. Korea is the hub for Samsung. I would like to see Sierra Leoneans benefit from their electronic knowledge,**

**equipment and gadgets.”** He promised to ensure the completion of the Freetown City Council.

*5. Thirteenth sitting of the Committee on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018*

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

*i. Dr Ibrahim Jalloh, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*

Dr Ibrahim Jalloh is an Islamic Cleric and Academician of high pedigree. He has a strong background in Islamic Law and was awarded a certificate of merit in 1996 from the African League of Post Graduate studies for his outstanding academic performance. He is currently the Supervisor and Coordinator of the Saudi Ministry of Islamic Affairs Missionaries programs and activities in Sierra Leone.

Reacting to probing questions on economic diplomacy, Dr Jalloh prided himself as a scholar who knows the country of Saudi Arabia, the culture and the religion. **“I have lived in Saudi for more than 20 years and have friends in high places, whom I have maintained contact even after my return to Sierra Leone. I know about the Islamic Development Bank [IDB] and I know that Sierra Leone is a Member of the IDB. The Saudi Development Fund is also another area that could be tapped. There are several other areas to explore if we use the right diplomacy with the support of Government that could yield dividend to this nation.”**

*ii. Mr Peter Joseph Francis, proposed High Commissioner Sierra Leone High Commission, Nairobi, Kenya*

Mr Peter Joseph Francis is a development worker with proven experience in formulating strategies, direction, good governance and leadership. He is currently, the Chief Executive Officer, Quee and Francis Company.

Reacting to the concerns of the Committee, Mr Francis said: **“With my wealth of experience acquired both locally and internationally, and as African representative for major emergencies, I believe I can deliver on strategic partnerships and bilateral co-operations in dealing with issues of tourism,**

**trade and travelling. Kenya is recognized as one of the commercial hubs and a gateway to the far-east and the far-south. That position is very strategic and holds opportunities on benefit for Sierra Leone."**

*iii. Haja Ishata Thomas, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Kuwait, Kuwait City*

Haja Ishata Thomas is currently the Principal of Murray Town Municipal Secondary School. She is renowned for discipline, honesty and commitment to work.

Addressing the concerns of Members on the issue of protecting Sierra Leoneans languishing in Kuwait, Haja Ishata Thomas said: **"I am a Sierra Leonean and the issue has been of concern to all of us. This is going to be my first assignment in Kuwait. I know that with the support of the Embassy staff and with the cooperation of the Labour Ministry here in Freetown, I will definitely engage the Kuwait authorities to know the Sierra Leoneans in Kuwait so as to develop a database for Sierra Leoneans. With the help of the foreign ministry in Freetown we will be able to find a way."**

*iv. Dr Solomon Momoh C. Genbeh, proposed High Commission, Sierra Leone High Commission, Abuja, Nigeria*

Mr Solomon Momoh Christopher Gembeh is a Financial Management Specialist with strong background in Home Land Security, Project Management, Banking, Counter-terrorism and Strategic thinking. He is currently a Consultant, Home Mortgage Consultant, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, and USA.

Answering to the Committee's probing questions, Dr Gembeh said: **"In the sub-region, there are security threats like Buko-Haram and others. For instance, once the UN pulled out of Liberia, there seems to be some threat of terrorism that might spill-over into Sierra Leone. Our borders are very porous and these are areas that would need to be addressed. If I obtain the blessings of approval by this Honorable House, I will bring in my strategic, operational knowledge and economic diplomacy to enhance access to external resources for the economic benefit of this country. I think I have the wherewithal to**

**ensure that my country derives maximum benefit from our representation in Abuja.”**

v. Mr Charlie Haffner, proposed Chairman, Monument and Relics Commission

Mr Charlie Haffner is an accredited play-write, songwriter, oral historian, tutor and composer with over thirty-five year experience in performance theatre. He is the winner of the Presidential Gold Award [2006] for his dedicated and meritorious services in the field of theatre arts. He is currently serving as the Director General: **“Freetong Players International Theatre Group.”**

In his interview, Mr Charlie Haffner said: **“Considering the importance of our historical and cultural monuments and relics to the development of tourism, I would like to actualize my long life dream for Sierra Leone i.e., the establishment of Museums in every district headquarter town. But I will start with the regional museums and to encourage community museums. I think it is high time we had a museum for the ten year rebel war that we fought in this country.”**

vi. Mr Mohamed Hassan Koroma, proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Mr Mohamed Hassan Koroma is an Islamic Cleric of no mean standing. He is currently the Chief of Imam of the ruling Sierra Leone People’s Party. In his interview, Mr Mohamed Hassan Koroma made two signification promises that:

[i] he was going to cooperate and collaborate with the substantive Ambassador, his boss, for the success of the mission; and

[ii] he was going as Sierra Leone’s Deputy Ambassador to work for Sierra Leone and all Sierra Leoneans irrespective of political party, regional or ethnic considerations.

vii. Ms Victoria Mangay Sulimani, proposed Deputy Permanent Representative, Sierra Leone Permanent Mission to the UN, New York

Ms Victoria Mangay Sulaimani is a career diplomat with a wealth of knowledge and experience in International Relations and Diplomacy. She is currently the Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations.

A Member of the Committee suggested the appointment of career diplomats to certain critical missions. He said: **"In some countries, they have 60% career diplomats and 40% political appointees in locations like the UN, London, Brussels, Washington. These are critical areas where experienced diplomats are needed."** He advocated for Sierra Leone to pursue a similar policy.

Responding to the inquiries of the Committee, the nominee deposed that she was quite familiar with the pressure of work in the UN and the many and varied meetings that are to be attended. **"I think I am quite au fait with the demands of UN work. We were very thin on the ground when I was in the UN. There were only two of us and the UN General Assembly had six committees. We used to shuttle between all those Committees, the General Assembly, the Security Council and all the other organs. I have had a bit of it all and if I obtain the approval of this House, I am sure I will live up to expectations."**

*viii. Dr Lansana Gberie, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Geneva, Switzerland*

Dr Lansana Gberie specialises in International Relations and has twenty years' work experience as a Senior Research Analyst for the Security Council, New York. In 2002, he won an outstanding Research Award from the International Development Research Centre, Government of Canada.

Answering to probing questions, Dr Gberie said: **"On the issue of trade wars and its impact on Sierra Leone, we have started experiencing the hiking of commodity prices on the market, the fall in iron ore prices etc. Sanctions on China from the USA would affect us directly in terms of our iron ore production. We are hoping that these trade wars will not last for long because it will be devastating to economies like ours that is dependent on commodity production. I know the importance, in such matters of the World Trade Organisation [WTO] with its Headquarters in Geneva. That is one area, as Ambassador, that I am focusing on. I have had discussions with the outgoing Ambassador. On multi-lateral issues, I know that Geneva has 24**

**inter-Governmental Organisations, including World Health Organization, Human Rights Council and a host of others. There are over 200 international Non-Governmental Organizations [NGOs] Geneva is the hub for multi-lateralism and for the past twenty years, I have been working in that environment. I understand the way they operate. I have many friends and contacts and I believe I can meander my way through for the benefit of my country.**

*ix. Mr Harold Bundu Saffa, proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium*

Mr Harold Bundu Saffa is a Civil Rights Activist and a campaigner for Good Governance and Democracy. From 1997-1998, he was the Chairman, Committee for the Restoration of Constitutional Democracy in Sierra Leone [COKCOD]. The Committee was responsible for coordinating and mobilizing Sierra Leoneans in the United Kingdom to resist the violent overthrow of the legitimate government of the Late President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. He is currently the Chairman, Council of Elders, Sierra Leone People's Party.

Reacting to the prompts of the Committee, Mr Bundu Saffa promised to live up to expectations. He also promised to look into the Cotonou Accord to see how Sierra Leone could benefit from the provisions of that accord.

*x. Mr Joseph Mustapha Hazely, proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Liberia*

Mr Joseph Hazeley is a Human Resource professional with a wealth of experience in training, planning, logistics and procurement, management communication, public relations and public financial management and compliance management. From 2014-2016, he served as Regional Public Education Officer, Anti-Corruption Commission.

In his response to the Committee's inquiries, Mr Hazeley said that his role as Deputy Ambassador to Liberia, was to work collaboratively with his boss, the substantive Ambassador. He promised to fully cooperate with his boss for the good of his country.

*xi. Mr Morie Fofana, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Cairo, Republic of Egypt*

Mr Morie Fofana is a Career Banker with in-depth knowledge oo Financial and Human Resources management. From 2005 to 2016, he was the Head of Human Resources Department at the Standard Chartered Bank.

Responding to questions on terrorism in that part of the world for cautionary measure to the Government of Sierra Leone, Mr Morie Fofana said: **"If I obtain the stamp of approval from this Honourable House, I will endeavor to know their security setting, work with their security agencies and based on that, I think I will be in a position to provide appropriate security advice to the Government of Sierra Leone."**

*xii. Mr Samuel Housman Buggie Saffa, proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Geneva, Switzerland*

Mr Samuel Husman Buggie Saffa is a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Sierra Leone. Questioned as to whether he was prepared for the multi-disciplinary nature of the work he was called upon to do in Geneva, Mr Saffa said: **"Away from my disposition as a young man, I am a very organized person. These are meetings for which prior notifications are given which, I will clearly note in my calendar. Based on that I will be able to attend all such meetings as required and on time."**

*6. Fourteenth Sitting of the Committee on Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2018*

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

*i. Sheku Mahmoud Kanneh - proposed Chief Executive Officer, Road Maintenance Fund Administration*

Sheku Mahmoud Kanneh is a professional Accountant and is currently the Director of Finance, Sierra Leone Roads Authority.

In his interview, Mr Kanneh informed the Committee that he was instrumental in the establishment of the Road Maintenance Fund Administration. The RMFA, he said, receives and manages funds allocated for the maintenance of the nation's road network. The Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA] a major stakeholder and is

responsible for the routine maintenance of all primary and secondary roads using funds provided by the Road Maintenance Fund Administration.

*ii. Engineer Mohamed Allieu Jalloh, proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Water Company*

Engineer Mohamed Allieu Jalloh is currently the Director of the National Council for Technical, Vocational and Other Academic Awards [NCTVA], a body established by an Act of Parliament to provide Accreditation, Validation, Examination and Certifications services programmes in Polytechniques, Teachers Colleges, Technical and Vocational institutions. In 1991-1993 the nominee served in the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources as Senior Executive Engineer in the Water Division.

Mr Jalloh viewed his nomination as a call to return to his professional terrain and promised to work to the best of his ability for the success of the Company.

*iii. Mr Rashid Sesay: Proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates [UAE]*

Mr Sesay is a development strategist for over twenty-five years working with non-governmental and government institutions in West Africa and the Sahel. He has also worked on development programs in Sierra Leone, Ghana, Senegal, Cameroon and other places.

Reacting to the Committee's concerns, Mr Rashid Sesay noted that he had had an excellent and a very successful tenure with US-based International Non-Governmental Organisation operating in West Africa and Asia. He prided himself to have had the opportunity to interact with several bilateral and multilateral agencies in the process of mobilising resources for the project he was working with. He assured the Committee of using this experience to foster relationships at the UAE that will benefit Sierra Leone, citing waste management and energy as some of the sector areas of concern. He added that his Mission would be one that will encourage and support all Sierra Leoneans without bias. He further promised that if approved, he will endeavour to facilitate a direct flight between Abu Dhabi and Freetown.

iv. Mr Mohamed Yongawo, Proposed Ambassador to Moscow, Sierra Leone Embassy, Moscow, Russia

Mr Mohamed Yongawo was before his appointment, a political and social worker in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. He also did an extensive NGO work in Sierra Leone.

Outlining his strategy, Mr Mohamed Yongawo said that he planned to improve on the relationship between Sierra Leone and Russia. Sierra Leone, he said, had enjoyed a very good relationship with Russia in the 60s, 70s and 80s. The scenario, he said, is not the same today. **"It is not that Russia had abandoned Sierra Leone but that Sierra Leone had abandoned Russia,"** he said. Mr Mohamed Yongawo promised, if approved, to resuscitate that relationship for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Reacting to question as to how he would relate with other Sierra Leoneans that were not Members of his party, the nominee said that he considered himself as a 'socialite' that cuts across party, tribal and religious lines and that he would always give his time to serve other Sierra Leoneans.

v. Dr Michael Imran Kanu, Deputy Permanent Representative, Legal Affairs, Sierra Leone Permanent Mission to the United Nations New York

Dr Michael Imran Kanu is a legal practitioner and Managing Partner, Centre for Accountability and the Rule of Law, a lead researcher in the Sierra Leone Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr Michael Imran Kanu promised to work collaboratively with his boss, the substantive Ambassador, in advancing the Government's international priorities. He further promised to work hard to see that Sierra Leone acceded to more international conventions formulated under the auspices of the United Nations.

vi. Mr Mohamed Onanah Jalloh, Deputy Executive Director, National Youth Service

Mr Mohamed Onanah Jalloh is a professional Accountant and administrator, a change agent and youth motivator who had helped to transform the lives of many youths, particularly in the Bo District.

Addressing the concerns of the Committee, Mr Mohamed Onanah Jalloh informed the Members that he had been working with young people throughout his life; and that he was already a motivation for his new appointment as he was going to a very familiar terrain. **"I am going to the National Youth Service not as an SLPP but as a youth representative,"** he said.

*vii. Mr Atumanni Dainkeh, Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

Mr Atumanni Dainkeh is a Public Health Practitioner from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Prior to his nomination; he was the In-patient Service and Financial Manager of Central North West London National Health Service Foundation.

Questioned on his readiness to work with the Ambassador, Mr Atumanni Dainkeh said that he was wholeheartedly ready to work with him and to give him every support needed. He vowed to be committed to his diplomatic assignment to help his Ambassador promote good relations with other nations.

*viii. Mr Jonathan Arthurs Derick Leigh, Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Berlin, Germany*

Mr Jonathan Arthurs Derick Leigh is a popular Media Practitioner who has worked in several media houses and renowned newspapers in this country. He was a correspondent for the New African Magazine [London] 1985, African Business Magazine London 1989, African Concord Magazine [London] 1989 and as freelance for the West Africa Magazine [London] 1992. He is currently the publisher of the 'Independent Observer Newspaper.' He also worked as sport correspondent for the BBC African Service 1992 and VOA African Service in 1994 and other appointments. Mr Leigh promised to work assiduously for the success of his Mission and the country.

*ix. Mrs Agnes Dugba Maculey, proposed Deputy High Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commission, London, United Kingdom.*

Mrs Agnes Dugba Maculey is a certified Public Health Practitioner with strong competence in Public Administration and Management. She is currently an Administrator at Harrow Citizen Advice Bureau. Mrs Dugba Maculey promised not to betray the confidence reposed on her and would endeavour to live up to expectations.

*x. Mr Sheku Mesali, proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Washington, D.C*

Mr Sheku Mesali is a career diplomat with a wealth of knowledge in administration and budgetary matters. He is currently the Acting Permanent Secretary/Acting Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations. Mr Sheku Mesali promised to work collaboratively with his boss, the substantive Ambassador and to fully cooperate with him.

*7. Fifteenth Sitting Of The Committee On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018*

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

*i. Mr Mohamed Sharka Kargbo, proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Telecommunications Company Limited [SIERRATEL]*

Mr Sharka Kargbo is an Electrical Engineer with over thirty years' work experience in Telecommunications System Management. He is currently a Technical Consultant to the Ministry of Information and Communications.

Responding to probing questions, Mr Kargbo said: **"Currently, SIERRATEL is down with a lot of management problems. I see this appointment as an opportunity because as Board Chairman, I will draw on my past experiences as a former Managing Director to restore the company to its former glory."**

Answering to further questions on privatisation, Mr Kargbo said: **"I see privatization as a possible solution to the problems encountered by SIERRATEL. The kind of privatisation I will recommend is the one with three parts; i.e., the government, private investors and the workers of the company given an**

**opportunity to own shares in the Company. With the workers owning shares, the Company will become their baby this will motivate them to work for the success of the Company."**

*ii. Mr Mohamed Rakka Longo Koroma, proposed Member, Public Service Commission*

Mr Mohamed Koroma is a career Civil Servant with over thirty years experience in providing services in the Public Sector. He was employed as a Higher Executive Officer in 1986 and rose through the ranks to attain his current position of Executive Secretary, Sierra Leone Health Service Commission.

Answering to inquiring questions, Mr Koroma said: **"I intend to set a high standard for recruitment into the Service. If we have trained and qualified civil servants, there will be efficiency and quality service delivery in all public sectors. My role on the board will be to ensure that the recruitment and training of public service workers is fair and transparent."**

*8. Recommendations*

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

- [i] Mr Umaru Dumbuya, Chairman, proposed Sierra Leone Maritime Administration;
- [ii] Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai, proposed Permanent Representative, Sierra Leone Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York;
- [iii] Mr Ernest M'baimba Ndomahina, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Embassy Beijing, China;
- [iv] Mr Saffa-Woya Rogers, proposed Deputy Ambassador to Sierra Leone Embassy, Beijing, China;
- [v] Dr Brima Patrick Kapuwa, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- [vi] Mr Eddie Sidikie Massally, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Monrovia, Liberia;

- [vii] Mr Alimamy Hassan Bangura, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Conakry, Guinea;
- [viii] Mr Hamid Taal, proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Conakry, Guinea;
- [ix] Dr M'baimba Lamin Baryoh, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Berlin Germany;
- [x] Mr Tamba John Sylvanus Lamina, proposed High Commissioner, United Kingdom, London;
- [xi] Ambassador Alie Badara Kamara, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Tehran, Iran;
- [xii] Mr Samuel Tamba Musa, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium;
- [xiii] Mrs Frances Virginia Anderson, proposed High Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commissioner, Accra, Ghana;
- [xiv] Mr Kathos Jibao Matta, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Seoul, South Korea;
- [xv] Alhaji Brima Elvis Koroma, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Dakar, Senegal;
- [xvi] Madam Lucretia Marian Shereef, proposed High Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commission Banjul, the Gambia;
- [xvii] Dr Sao-Kpato Hannah Isatta Max-Kyne, proposed Deputy Commissioner, National Commission for Social Action;
- [xviii] Alhaji Banie Allah Seisay, proposed Member, Public Service Commission;
- [xix] Mr Peter Joseph Francis, proposed High Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commission, Nairobi, Kenya;
- [xx] Mr Solomon Momoh Christopher Gembeh, proposed High Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commission, Abuja, Nigeria;
- [xxi] Mr Charlie Haffner, proposed Chairman, Monuments and Relics Commission;
- [xxii] Mr Morie Fofana, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Cairo, Republic of Egypt;

[xxiii] Haja Ishata Thomas, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Kuwait, Kuwait City;

[xxiv] Mr Joseph Mustapha Hazeley, proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Monrovia, Liberia;

[xxv] Mr Harold Bundu Saffa, proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium;

[xxvi] Mr Samuel Housman Buggie Saffa, Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Geneva, Switzerland;

[xxvii] Mr Mohamed Hassan Koroma, proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia;

[xxviii] Ms Victoria Mangay Sulamani, proposed Deputy Permanent Representative, Sierra Leone's, Permanent Mission to the UN., New York;

[xxix] Dr Lansana Gberie, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Vienna, Switzerland;

[xxx] Dr Ibrahim Jalloh, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Riyadh Saudi Arabia;

[xxxi] Mr Mohamed Yongowa, Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Moscow, Russia;

[xxxii] Mr Rashid Sesay, Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirate [UAE];

[xxxiii] Ms Agnes Kumba Dugba, proposed Macauley Deputy high Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commission, London United Kingdom;

[xxxiv] Mr Jonathan Arthur Derrick Leigh, proposed Deputy Ambassador Sierra Leone Embassy, Berlin, Germany;

[xxxv] Dr Michael Imran Kanu, proposed Deputy Permanent Representative Legal Affairs, Sierra Leone Permanent Mission to the United Nations;

[xxxvi] Mr Atumani Dainkeh, proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

[xxxvii] Mr Sheku Mahmoud Kanneh, Chief Executive Officer, Road Maintenance Fund Administration;

[xxxviii] Ing. Mohamed Allieu Jalloh, proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Water Company

[xxxix] Mr Mohamed Onanah Jalloh, proposed Executive Director, National Youth Service;

[xl] Mr M. R. Koroma, proposed Member, Public Service Commission; and

[xli] Mr Mohamed Sharka Kargbo, proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, SIERRATEL.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Eleventh Report portrays the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Eleventh 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. Signed by Hon. Sidie M. Tunis, Chairman.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, any seconder?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I second the Motion.

*Question Proposed*

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the Floor. I also thank the Leader of Government Business for reading such a verbose report. We have said in most of our scrutiny of the nominees that we do not give positions based on political patronage. We give positions because they deserve it and if you check their resumes, you would realise that most of them have ideas of the institution they are going to serve if approved by this House. They are going to work for the good of the ordinary man and serve Sierra Leone. I do not know if the Leader made the correction, but it should be Vienna Convention of Diplomatic Relations as stated in the Article. It is not 'Geneva Convention' as stated in this report.

**THE SPEAKER:** That correction had been made long time ago.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** We admonish the nominees to understand why we mentioned Article 8[1-3] because we want to be a responsible Government. I even went to the extent of telling them about the ARGIMORE because we are a very responsible Government and we do not want to do things because we are in governance. We want to do things that reflect the face of Sierra Leone. In that light, their resumes and experiences can take us to a level where Sierra Leone will grow.

They are going to serve us like Sierra Leoneans because we believe they can deliver in the various positions they have been nominated to serve.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind the nominees that we have been talking about colours for a long time. However, we have colours in the 1991 Constitution of this country and colours in Section 3[1b] of the Constitution are: 'Green, White and Blue.' I want us to fly those colours based on the provisions in the Constitutions because those colours are powerful. We do not want to fly colours that we do not know how to explain. Let us fly the colours enshrined in the 1991 Constitution.

*Suspension of S.O 5[2]*

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** When you are flying those flags, especially for those who are going to serve in our foreign missions, they have to fly the Green, White and Blue. The reason for flying those colours is because when you fly them, you look Sierra Leone and you propound the policies of the 'New Direction.' The 'New Direction' is our concern and it is for the ordinary man. We are not here because we want to promote an agenda for the good of the SLPP alone, but to promote an agenda that will serve Sierra Leone. Governance is like building a pyramid. We have laid the foundations, but if you remove one of the building blocks of the pyramid, there would be cracks on the walls of the pyramid. We are in governance because we have structured the pyramid and His Excellency the President of the republic is quite on top of the pyramid as the pedestal who control the pyramid.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to admonish the nominees that they are here today because we have built a pyramid to serve the people of this country. At the bottom of the pyramid, there are Members of Parliament who will serve in that layer of the structure. Those at the middle of the pyramid are the Ministers and Boards Members, etc. We believe that they should serve us and serve Sierra Leone based on the fundamental rules of human rights and good governance. Good governance is not only beneficial to the SLPP or APC, but every Sierra Leonean.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in my last presentation, I said that we have conglomerate of representation. In other words, we have conglomerate of Sierra

Leoneans who are Temne, Limba, Kono, Mandingo etc., and because of that, your CVs should be translated into actions and not words. You are qualified because we have looked at your resumes. You are good people and we have every reason to say so because we have scrutinised them. We want you to translate those experiences into actions, so that Sierra Leone can benefit. We want the 'New Direction' to succeed for the good of the ordinary man and that is the platform we campaigned.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind everybody that in as much as you are trying to succeed as Government for the next generation, we believe our colleagues would look at our pyramid structure in terms of governance. We campaigned on the platform that we will transform this country; and today, we are sending Ambassadors to other countries and those who are going to work in other institutions in this country. We want you to do more because we can only succeed if you put the 'New Direction' first. You can only succeed if you believe that Sierra Leone needs a change. We campaigned on the platform of change and I think the people are ready to take the change seriously. The change is going to be on practical terms. I want to remind all and sundry that we are very happy today because I can see people in the galleries celebrating. It is good for them to clap, but the nominees have to put Sierra Leone first.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind you about Section 61 in the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone that you can be hired today and fired by His Excellency the President the next day if you do not perform. We need service delivery and it is only when you deliver we can praise you. We have scrutinised you based on your CVs and your past works, but we are going to look at you with a political microscope. Perform politically and do the good things that we think APC, the NGC, the Paramount Chiefs and the C4C can appreciate. We represent our people and we believe that people will serve Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to admonish those nominated to serve in foreign missions that they should welcome and appreciate all Sierra Leoneans, irrespective of political affiliation. Please do not look for political colours, tribe or region. We want Sierra Leone to grow in a unified fashion. If approved today, you are

not going there to discriminate. You have to be fair in your service. If you have been discriminated before, do not retaliate. Work for the good of the ordinary man and bring everybody on board. Welcome everybody in the embassy or foreign mission you will be deployed. Whether you are APC, SLPP, NGC all of us are moving to different embassies because we are serving Sierra Leone.

At this juncture, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to single out one Ambassador. I am the leader of the African Caribbean Pacific and European Parliament delegation. We are going to review the Cotonou Agreement. We are benefitting immensely from the Cotonou Agreement and there is project being carried out by the European Union. We are now reviewing the project and we have started our campaign, which is going on very well. We believe you are going to join us. You have to learn from your predecessor and Members of Parliament. We will ensure that we work together, so that Sierra Leone is honoured outside. You have to understand the provisions in the Cotonou Agreement to see whether we need to review it or maintain the extant provisions. Presently, Sierra Leone is benefitting a lot from that Cotonou Agreement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the EU Project is ongoing based on the Cotonou Agreement. So, I believe the Ambassador to Brussels and the Kingdom of Belgium can look at this Agreement and take a leaf from your predecessor, Ambassador Ibrahim Sorie. He is a very good man and he has worked immensely in that Embassy to ensure that Sierra Leone moves forward. He encountered many challenges in the discharge of his duties. Therefore, you need adequate staff, those who will be willing to work with you. It is a multi-dimensional place and it is also a hub for Europe. So, if approved, please go out there and make sure that you have adequate staff so that you can perform well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I withdrew from the interview of Mrs Frances Anderson. She is somebody who has been very professional and has promoted the interest of Sierra Leone beyond the shores of Sierra Leone. I believe she is going to Ghana and she will perform exceptionally well because she has done it before. She has involved in international relations and she worked with Sierra Leoneans on the other

side of the Isle. She has invested a lot in promoting the interest of Sierra Leone in Ghana. I believe she will do well. This also goes for Dr Kapuwa, a professional who has immense experience and knowledge in international relations.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we also have the Ambassador to China, a young entrepreneur who has done so well in Sierra Leone. I know he will promote Sierra Leone, so that Sierra Leone can grow and emulate other countries. We want Sierra Leone to be a better country, so that we can promote the agenda we are here to promote.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know my colleagues want to speak, but I want to end with something. I want to state here that this is how we are going to get another five year mandate from the people. We can only succeed if we do the things that will promote the interest of Sierra Leoneans. We are saying, 'paopa Salone for betteh.' Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, please take your seat. I would like to make two observations. The first has to do with keeping with the provisions of Section 97[a] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. I would like to state here and now how impressed I am with the decorum and with the fact that you now come to the Chamber in a manner that is consistent with the dignity of this House. So, please congratulate yourselves. The second observation I have is that I would like to call on the Honourable Sahr Juana to rise. Please, do you have anything to say to this House?

**HON. SAHR E. JUANA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I know you requested me to stand. This noble House would want to hear Honourable Sahr Juana's response. However, in the midst of what has happened in the previous week on social media about the miscalculation and misinformation. In other words, the social media miscalculated, misinformed and misrepresented me. They said I have told people that the government of Sierra Leone has released the Constituency Development Fund to Members of Parliament. This information was a calculated ploy to destroy me and hinder the progress of this government. This was never my information. I know some

people are trying to damage my character and the reputation of this House. I want to say sorry for whatever damage this has caused me and this House.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, you are still in the flight. You are yet to land where you should land. We are waiting for you to land.

**HON SAHR E. JUANA:** Mr Speaker, let me pray that justice prevail and my human dignity is guaranteed by you. I think this House was informed by the Speaker that the news going round social media was miscalculated and misguided; therefore, I am here to reaffirm that the information regarding the CDF for which I was quoted to have said that Government has released the said fund to Members of Parliament is equally unfounded and untrue. Based on the claim made by journalists that I, Sahr E. Juana, said that Government has released the CDF to Members of Parliament, it is an honourable responsibility that as the people's representative to apologise to this House. Thank you very much [*Applause*].

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for that apology. He has landed properly where he should land and I would like this House to take note of the apology he has made. We may now proceed with the debate as usual, I will start with those who are yet to make their maiden speeches. So, if you know you have already spoken before, please take your seat. You will be surprised to note that I still have one or two Members on my list who are yet to take the Floor.

**HON. ALEX M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of my Constituency 102, Pujehun District, I stand here to register our sincere thanks and appreciations to His Excellency the President for making such brilliant appointments. Some of the nominees seated before us have been nominated to serve as Ambassadors in different sovereign states and some as permanent representatives to the United Nations.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I make general comments, I want to start with Dr Francis Kaikai. Dr Francis Kaikai is a household name in this country. I happened to be his former staff and I have worked with him for two years when he was

heading the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme [DDR]. No matter what, he deserves the credit because during the civil war, he was in charge of that programme. I served as the District Reintegrated Officer in Pujehun District and I worked very hard with him. He was later elevated to the position of Director at the DACO. He also served at the PRSP and he did very well. I have no doubt in my mind that Dr Francis Kaikai will excel in his new appointment if approved. I wish you well and congratulations.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Ernest M'baimba Ndomahina, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy Beijing, China. He is a man with proven track record and the President was sensible enough to have nominated him to that position. I also have confidence in his proposed deputy, Mr Saffa-Woya Rogers. I want to admonish the two nominees to understand the culture of the Chinese. You have stayed in China for a very long time and that is why you speak and write the Chinese language. Please work together, so that you could do justice to this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Alhaji Brima Elvis Koroma, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Dakar, Senegal. He also has a proven track record. We also have our District Chairman, Mr Eddie Massally, who has been nominated to serve as Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia. Due to geo-political situation of that particular country, it is a concern to us. Mr Massally knows Liberia/Sierra Leone relationship and the history of the two countries. You also know that the Liberian Civil War spilled over to Sierra Leone. I hope you will pay much attention to that country in terms of security. For those of you that I would not name, I want to say congratulations and I wish you well. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. For me, the nominees are appropriate for their respective positions. There are certain criteria I look for in good appointments and I want to share those with this House. We speak of the 'New Direction' and nominees should understand the philosophy of the 'New Direction.' They must understand what the 'New Direction' is all about. That is very key because if we have to move this country forward, we voted for President Bio to bring positive change.

We need change that should reflect on our localities. We do not want development on paper. President Bio has promised this country to effect that change through the 'New Direction' agenda. Therefore, every nominee should understand the meaning of the 'New Direction.' The question is did the nominees understand what is meant by the 'New Direction' and the demands that we place on them if they have to follow the 'New Direction?' Definitely we need a 'New Direction.' The other question we have to ask ourselves is the national character of these nominations? I can say we have people from different corners of this country who are seeking our approval. To me, this is very good for the country. I am a Pan-Africanist and I do not talk about ethnicity negatively. I want to believe that there is no way we can move this country forward by leaving out any ethnic group. We should be together and that is reflected in these nominees. I am very happy for that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am an Independent Member of Parliament and what I am saying is from the bottom of my heart. I do not have to report to any political party office. As patriot, when somebody says we are moving in the 'New Direction,' a direction that will lead us to prosperity, it is my moral obligation to support that move. Is there any national character in the appointment? I can say yes, there is and I am very much happy for that, Mr Speaker. Is there anything about the winner takes all? In these nominations, I do not think so. I have seen people who have competed with His Excellency sometimes ago, but he has nominated them. I think this is very good. I have seen people who were very active observer of the processes within the parties and had competed with His Excellency before, but he has also given them appointments. This is very good because we are stronger together.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, somebody may feel that by pushing away people who had competed with you, that is a way of becoming very strong. No, you will become weaker. When you bring people who have not been on your side and work with them or respect them, you will gain more support and that makes you stronger. I think that is one thing that is very good in what His Excellency is doing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, do we have women amongst the nominees? Yes, I have seen very strong women. I am an advocate for women and I want to see more women being appointed to positions of trust. The other question I would like to ask is, are there young people in these nominees? Yes, there are young people. One thing I admired about the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, was that he appointed more young people into governance. Some were good whilst others were not. I think he set that pace and the current President is even appointing very responsible people. I am sure part of that credit should also go to the erstwhile President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. He started the ball rolling and Rtd Brigadier Maada Bio is doing very well in that regard. I can see young and responsible people seeking the approval of this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the question I would like to ask is, are there experienced people amongst the nominees? The answer is yes because I can see a lot of experienced people who have come to serve this Nation. We have Madam Sheriff, whom I have met twice in debates and I have also heard a lot about her. We also have my elder brother, Dr Francis Kaikai who hails from my District. We also have Mr Eddie Massally,, Mr Saffa Woya-Rogers and Dr Genbeh. Dr Genbeh is another elder brother of mine. There are other nominees who are not from Pujehun, but I know they are serious minded people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you can tell a serious President from the appointments he makes. I have a classmate by the name of Rashid. He is a gentleman. We were in college together and he used to interact with all students. I feel very happy for his nomination. I can also see nominees who have served the party very well. I am not a Member of the SLPP and I do not belong to any political party, but I interact with people from different political parties. I can see the 'Sheik' and I met him severally in the SLPP office. I visit political party offices because I have brothers and sisters there *[Laughter]*. I can also see my elder brother, Mr Alhaji Brima Koroma. I am very happy for them and we have to show gratitude for their efforts. You do not appoint people based only on their academic qualifications, social status or financial status. There are

people who are very good with strong characters and we need to encourage such people. It is not also about the winner takes all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my other brother is also among the nominees, Mr Charlie Haffner. I met him in Banjul, The Gambia. He has a lot of passion for the work he does. I have not seen him in any political rally. Sometimes, you have to look outside politics. There are people who have never attended any party meeting, but they love this country. There are those who have excelled in their fields of endeavour and those are also good Sierra Leoneans. You have to look beyond the party and appoint people of such repute because you are serving the Nation. They are all Sierra Leoneans and I am very happy to see a man who has spent most of his life time promoting culture in this country. I thank you very much brother, Charlie Haffner and I am very happy for you. We have a lot of appointments in diplomatic missions. I stayed in the Gambia for ten years, where I met you. We were asked to memorise your names to pass our exams. I was very happy when I met him in the Gambia. I have stayed outside this country for ten years. I never knew I will stand before you and speak. This means we have come a long way, especially for a village boy to move to this point is incredible. I have stayed outside this country for ten years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am aware of the problems Sierra Leoneans outside this country are facing and I am aware the key role the embassies should play in terms of helping those Sierra Leoneans. This is why I am not in support of laws or regulations that discriminate against Sierra Leoneans living abroad because during the civil war, a lot of families survived on money or resources sent to this country by Sierra Leoneans living abroad. Most of these Sierra Leoneans living abroad are looking for greener pasture, so that they can bring something home. So, they are also very important and I want to appeal to the nominees going to those diplomatic missions to ensure that they bring all Sierra Leoneans living in your respective countries together. It does not matter which party they would belong to.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind you that some people are very instrumental out there. I was an executive Member of the Sierra Leone National Union

in the Gambia. If you want to make your work easy, the first assignment you have to embark on is to make sure that you engage the Sierra Leonean communities in your respective countries of operation. There are certain countries that have very organised executive committees, like The Gambia. You can work with those committees very well. When you work with them, they can give you information that can help you to mobilise support for your work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have also had diplomats being shamed in those countries. Some diplomats were beating their wives and some were caught with cocaine and other drugs and some were drunkards. I am sure this group of diplomats will not be categorised as drunkards. I can see before me ladies and gentlemen of high repute. I want to remind you that your defence point of call outside this country is your image, character, and behaviour and these will reflect the national character. So, I want to appeal to you to ensure that you promote the image of this country. Make sure you fly the flag of this country very high. I have no doubt in your ability to perform.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to state here that we should not only be interested in changing Government because Government comes and go, but what we have not be able to change in this country is the system; i.e., the system that continues to respect us, and the system that continues to hold us back. I can see in the 'New Direction' some hopes and I want to be part of that effort that will help to push the 'New Direction' forward.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I granted an interview yesterday and somebody asked me what about the hundred days? For me, I am fine because it is not appropriate at this time to prepare report card because I can see structures being put in place by the 'New Direction.' I want to be one of those Members of Parliament to support this change because if the 'New Direction' succeeds, we are succeeding as a Nation and if it fails, we are failing as a Nation. This is very serious because our situation is miserable. You cannot compare the status of the Speaker of Parliament in Sierra Leone to any Speaker anywhere in the world. Similarly, you cannot compare the Members of Parliament in Sierra Leone to any Member of Parliament in the World. In 2009, I was a

Member of a delegation that went to the USA on a study mission on the extractives. Nine West African Members of Parliament were selected by the National Democratic Institute to represent this country in the USA. I was amongst the nine selected Members of Parliament based on merit to represent this country. When we went to USA, there was a very big different between the Liberia Members of Parliament and Sierra Leone Members of Parliament. It was very shameful to note that gap. I also went to Kenya and we were looking for the cheapest restaurant to eat. It was very disgraceful for us. We have to do something very fast. We must vote for development and we want to see Government bring practical and not a change on paper. We want to feel the change. We are tired of being told that we have helped you and we have improved your lives. If you have improved my life, you do not need to tell me at all. I should be able to feel it and that is what we to want see in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this team and the other teams we have approved in this House are key for development. President Bio can never do it alone. Two weeks ago, I had a meeting with him on the land crisis in my Constituency. I think I have met with him almost three times. I think he has very good intentions for this country, but he cannot do it alone. He has to work with a team and he has to struggle with the enemy within. Sometimes the problem may not even be totally the Opposition, but those within. When the President moves in the 'New Direction,' you have few other people moving in the old direction. That is very bad for the progress of this country. The first thing the President has to deal with is the enemies within. You cannot claim to love the President or his agenda if you do not support him. The old direction refers to those things that are not in the interest of this country. You have to ask yourself in what capacity you can help the President to move this country forward. As diplomats or nominees, please sit in your small corner and ask yourself that question. Are you going to the community to ensure that what people are yearning for is provided? Are you going to sit in your offices and engage in idle discussions or you are going to deal with the issues? Are you collecting money for something that you are paid for? Are you going to move in the 'New Direction? Are you really helping the President?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these are the key questions you have to answer. I want to remind you that after five years, we are going to prepare a report card for this Government and we want to see a real change. Like I said yesterday, it is about the system. The problem in Sierra Leone, for me as an Independent Member Parliament, is not partisan, but systemic problem. I can tell you that most of the things that are happening in the old regime are still happening today. The challenge is how do we effect the change? How do we make sure that these things disappear? How do we reduce them to the barest minimum?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my constituents in constituency 104, Malen Chiefdom and part of Sowa Chiefdom voted for me and the President massively. So, I have the moral obligation to work with the President because we are the only two candidates that scored over **70%** of the votes cast in that Constituency. This means I have to support and work with him. I have to advise him. My business is not only to come here and praise sing. I am not a praise singer. One way you can support the President is to be objective in your analyses. We have to tell him to do the right thing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some of the people we approve should be called before Parliament to answer questions. We must have question time for some of those appointees. However, because of the political reason, the right questions are not always asked in certain quarters. If people come here for approval, we should be able to summon them here to answer certain questions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to appeal to this House to approve the nominees. I think we have a batch of very experienced and committed Sierra Leoneans who want to join this team in a collective effort to push this country forward. I want to state here that Pujehun has got a very big share in the appointments. At first, when the appointments were being made, some Pujehun people were asking, where are the Pujehun people? In this House, the Leader of this House is from Pujehun District. Again, the Chief Whip is from Pujehun. We have two Pujehun Members of Parliament in the ECOWAS Parliament, including me. I am very happy that our host, the Sierra Leonean

High Commissioner to Nigeria, is from Pujehun. Also, Pujehun will produce the first Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament. I thank you very much [*Laughter across the Floor*].

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his very constructive contribution to this debate. For those of you to my right, I know the trajectory you are coming from. Therefore, you need not suffer your legs too long. I will now recognise the NGC Member of Parliament. Let us have a cross party line appreciation of what His Excellency has done today.

**HON. ABDUL T. KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start by thanking His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, for this team he has presented to us this morning. Indeed, it is one of the finest teams so far. I am not here to praise sing. My contribution this morning will focus on two nominees. The first person I want to talk about is my mentor. He is a very strong fighter for SLPP. This is why the SLPP made gains in the Northern Province, especially Kambia District. Today, he has been nominated by His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, to serve as Ambassador. I know he is going there to represent the interest of this country. I know him to be a man of integrity and sobriety. He is no less a person but Mr Alimamy H. Bangura. Sometimes if you pass by the SLPP Office, you hear people calling him Alimamy Bio because he has been a consistent individual. I have known him since I was a child. He is the Northern star of the SLPP and he is one of the good nominees seated before us today. If this House approves his nomination, I will be the happiest individual today. Mr Bangura should expect me today because I know we are going to celebrate his approval.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other person I want to talk about has been a co-worker. He has been one of my secret admirers. We have worked together in a financial institution and he has been the legal adviser in that financial institution. He is a man of integrity. Anytime you see him, you see seriousness in him. He does not mingle with mediocre. He is straight forward and his nomination is pleasing to some of us. Dr Michael Imram Kanu is the man. When I saw his name as one of the nominees of the President, I was very happy. This is because he is very honest and hardworking. He is

definitely going to represent Sierra Leone at the UN. I know what he has started will continue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have very young people amongst the nominees, such as Mr Mohamed Onanah Jalloh, proposed Executive Director, National Youth Service. I have been hearing his name when we were in the university. You also have Mr Rashid Sesay, who is also a no nonsense man. He could not recognise me by now, but we have been neighbours. He is no nonsense individual and his nomination is no mistake. I am happy to see them amongst the nominees.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to plead with my colleagues to hastily approve these nominees. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I want to thank the Honourable Member for his very constructive contribution. You see each time I listen to some of you, you give me the clearest assurance that the bar in this House in terms of the quality of our debates is being raised to the highest level.

**HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I do not want to follow the usual protocol in terms of thanking His Excellency the President because those of us who are in Opposition know that the President is consistent in what he does. This is not the first time he is presenting appropriate nominees, but today is unique. This is because those of us in Opposition are very quiet to a very large extent because there is nothing to criticise.

**THE SPEAKER:** I have recognised you to be a Member of the Opposition and I know you are an Independent Member of Parliament.

**HON. QUINTIN SALIA-KONNEH:** Well, as an Independent Member, I see myself as an Opposition Member of Parliament. So, today is very quiet. I am talking on behalf of those in Opposition. I will not waste more words, but to go straight to the nominees. The President has done his part in terms of identifying these nominees and has presented for the approval of this House. He did that because he believed in your capacity to perform. If this House approves your nomination, it left with you to take up

this challenge and perform exceptionally well. Your nomination to serve in the different embassies and missions is different as compared to other approvals we have done here. We have approved ministers, Heads of Parastatals and Agencies, but your nominations are different because you are going to serve as excellences in those countries. In other words, you are going to serve as Presidents for Sierra Leone in those countries. So, your appointment is very unique. If you receive your appointment letters, you will be expected to behave as excellences. That is why you have been nominated to serve in those countries as Ambassadors.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform the nominees that we have not seen many mishaps between the President and his Vice. We are not expecting the same in those countries when once you go there. We expect you to put on the best behaviour because you are going to represent Sierra Leone in those countries. We expect you to lead to the best of your ability. If this House approves your nominations today, it is not because you are the best, but because it has pleased the President to nominate you. We have several other people who can equally serve in those positions. You have been nominated, it is because His Excellency believes in your ability to deliver. The President is not going to be there to supervise. If you have been nominated to serve as Ambassadors, it is because he has **80%** confidence in you. Please, go there and represent this country well. Make sure you fly the banner of Sierra Leone very high and perform to the best of your abilities. Do not involve yourselves in anything that does not portray the good image of our country. Go there as excellences and deliver on your promises. Serve in the best interest of our country.

Having said those few words of caution, I will not waste more time but to thank His Excellency the President for seeing you as the best people to represent this country. Before I take my seat, please permit me to recognise our budget analyst this country has ever produced, Mr Tasima Jah. I recognise you sir *[Applause]*. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I now want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence of a few personalities in our midst;

i.e., Honourable Helen Kuyembeh, the Honourable Reverend Marie Yansaneh, Ambassador Joe Blair, and the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Bah [*Applause*]. I will now give the Floor to the Leader of C4C. Let me repeat before you actually utter a word, it is not that I am blind to my right, I can see quite well what is happening to my right, but as I always said, it is perfectly reasonable to assume the trajectory from which you come. I want to see whether there are other views of appreciation and understanding of the dynamics of the nomination made by His Excellency the President. So, I will give those who are not part of you the opportunity to have a bite I call on the C4C Leader, Honourable Saa E. Lamina to make his contribution.

**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, while congratulating the presidential nominees in anticipation, I also want to thank His Excellency with gratitude for nominating fine Sierra Leoneans which I have no iota of doubt that these are reservoir of knowledge, strongly believing that they will do this Nation good. Due to the fact that we have over forty nominees, it will be very difficult to address them individually. It is against that backdrop I will address them generally. We are expecting all of you to raise the banner of our Nation very high, so that you make us proud locally and internationally.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I crave the indulgence of the nominees to promote and make imprint in the international scene. We want you to bring home 'Direct Foreign Investments' that will create employment for our youths. The statistics for youth unemployment is very bad for this Nation. Go and bring credible investors that will promote trade and the flagship programme of the 'New Direction,' the 'Free Quality Education.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of the C4C, I have realised that promoting city sisters relationships with nations will be a good thing for this country. Proposed Ambassadors and Deputy Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Deputy High commissioners can promote that agenda. The 2004 decentralisation Act provided nineteen local councils. We now have about twenty-two local councils. Please pair our cities with those in other Nations you are going to, so that waste management which is

a huge challenge in our cities, is adequately taken care of. You can also work towards promoting agriculture in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to remind the nominees to be au fait with the "Anti-Human Act of 2005," in tandem with Article 3 of the International Labour Organisation [ILO]. This provision prohibits inhuman treatment against our citizens. It is no secret in this Nation that Sierra Leoneans have been dehumanised and mistreated by other nations. Please create good relationships with those countries, so that international Human Rights tenets are attained and maintained by all and sundry.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the tenets of good governance are transparency, accountability and participation. Due to the fact that the 'winner takes all' system of democracy we practice in Sierra Leone, it is the prerogative of the President to implement Section 61 of the 1991 Constitution of this country. In other words, he hires and fires as he pleases. However, I want to encourage all and sundry as you are about to take responsibilities to encourage inclusion and participation. Make sure you bring everybody on-board. One popular quote of Nelson Mandela in 1994, when he was about to gain his freedom once said: **"No man is born hating one another, people must hate, and if they learn how to hate, they can be taught how to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."** And it is also no secret that divisive partisan politics had disturbed this Nation and we hope and pray that we have good and articulate civic education specialists that will bring all of us together. This is the dream of C4C and it should be the dream of all.

As I said earlier, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it will be difficult to talk about all the nominees, I will talk about my elder brother, Mr Tamba J.S. Lamina. In line with our parliamentary prayers [with no special interest], but because of his competence, it cannot be gain-said. Mr Tamba Lamina is known to be dependable, but a reliable politician, somebody whose political conviction cannot be meddled with. It will surprise you to note that while I was contesting for the mayoral seat in 2012, he was heading a delegation and he requested for a recount, even though it was a tsunami defeat against the other candidate in the municipality of Koidu. This man never agreed and he

requested for a recount. Interestingly, while he was protecting the SLPP box, I was protecting the APC box. Twice we recounted, but they were defeated. That is the man. His political conviction transcends that of brotherhood. He is a magnanimous politician. Again, while I was persecuted by my former party, I found myself in the U.K. and he was very magnanimous and hospitable. He said: **"Come back home."** I said this is my conviction. That is the man, the man who is known to be very brilliant, bold and fair and meticulous. I believe he will perform in his new assignment. I want you to bring everybody on board.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Samuel Musa Tamba is my Kinsman. He is development specialist. I think he is the first black man to head Action Aid in this country. His knowledge in bringing international donors will help this country. Mr Samuel Musa, I encourage you to be au fait with the 'Cotonou Agreement.' I am a Member of the ACP/EU Parliament and getting first-hand information from the outgoing Ambassador will help this Nation. Today, if we can boast of the Mabang/Magbele Bridge and the Bo/Liberia boarder, it is because of the hard work of Ambassadors Ibrahim Sorie. He did well for this country. Mr Speaker, from information I got, he was able to approve about three hundred and seventy thousand euro, which has helped this Nation. Mr Samuel Musa Tamba, please take a page from his book and relate well with him. I have no doubt that he will triple, if not quadruple, the good things that will come to this Nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Mohamed Onanah Jalloh, proposed Executive Director, National Youth Service. The name rings bell as far as the student domain is concerned. I know this young man during my tutelage at the university. If I am familiar with all of the districts headquarter towns in this country, he facilitated that whilst serving the National Union of Sierra Leone President. He usually encourages fine breed for leadership and he has done this nation good by helping the Youth Village.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai, proposed Permanent Representative, Sierra Leone Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York. His name also rings a bell in Sierra Leone. I know him to be somebody who is

pivotal to the development of Sierra Leone and a wise counsellor for that matter. The Civil War ended in 2002 and in 2000, he was in Kono during the disarmaments and the demobilisation process. He encountered bloody men, but he was able to defeat them. Today, if Kono has the highest number of ex-combatants, it was due to this man's handwork *[Applause]*. He faced the former RUF leader and I want to believe that he will do more good things for this Nation at the UN platform.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I cannot stop without specially acknowledging Mrs Agnes Duba Maculey. She is an astute woman and a relative. When democracy was under threat in this Nation, she was everywhere with placards in the UK, demonstrating for the interest of this Nation. Today, she has been nominated to serve as Deputy High Commissioner in the UK.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Ing. Mohamed Allieu Jalloh has been nominated to serve as Chairman, Sierra Leone Water Company. He is also a native of Kono District. I come from Kono and from UN records, Kono District suffered **96.6%** destruction in the hands of rebels. This means that churches, schools, property and lives were destroyed. Please check the archive of UNDP of 2002. Private homes were not spared, but destroyed, including water facility. If approved by this noble House, I have no doubt that he will perform. In a moment from now, he will be approved and this country will gain from his hard work. Water works in Kono were destroyed by rebels. I hope before the end of this first term of the 'New Direction' government, Kono water system will be fixed. In the early 80s before going to primary school, I used to take shower under the tap, but that is no longer there. The nominees before us are eminently qualified with strong academic backgrounds *[Applause]*. These are Sierra Leoneans whom I believe will encourage development for the good of all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Dr Michael Imran Kanu has been proposed to serve as Deputy Permanent Representative, Legal Affairs, Sierra Leone Permanent Mission to the United Nations and he will shortly take over from Mr Felix Koroma. Once again I commend the President for these fine nominees. I want to admonish the nominees to

put away all political connections and look at Sierra Leone with the Sierra Leone lens. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his very fine contribution to this debate. I recognise another independent Member of Parliament.

**HON. EMILIA L. TONGI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will like to inform the nominees that they are not here today to be criticised, but to be blessed, praised, pampered and advised. I wish you good luck in your different missions. I will like to specially recognise Mr Sheiku Mohamed Kanneh, proposed nominee for the Maintenance Fund Administration *[Applause]*. I want to inform him that Sierra Leone lacks what they call maintenance culture. We do not have maintenance culture in this country. If you go to most of our institutions, you will see how dilapidated those structures are. Our roads are being abandoned and nobody comes to inspect them. If you look and inspect the condition of our toilet facilities, you will notice that they are not up to standard. Years back, there was a vehicle going to my home, Kissy Tongi Chiefdom that involved in a fatal accident simply because of the absence of road sign that Road Transport Authority refuses to erect. We lost about thirty-two people in Kissy Tongi on that day. I spoke about this issue during the interview. I would like you to make a difference because this is the 'New Direction' and I want to believe the 'New Direction' is the right direction *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am not going to say much, but to remind all of us that 'it is not how much you live in this world matters, but what you live to do matters most.' I wish you all the best and make us proud as a country. Your presence in those countries will show that Sierra Leone is all over the world. You have to work well and put Sierra Leone on the map. I wish you good luck. There is no much to be said because you are all beautiful and handsome people the President has nominated. When my colleague was making his contribution, I was a little bit jealous because he was calling names from Pujehun District. I want to appeal to His Excellency the President to think about the Kissy Kingdom *[Applause]*. Kissy Kingdom has no nominee and I want

to beg the President to consider us. We still have time though but please think about us. Thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for her contribution to the debate. I really want to observe that apart from the front bench, the Honourable Members to my left are so over whelmed by the quality of the nominees that I do not see many wanting to catch my eye today. So, I recognise the Honourable Massay Aruna.

**HON MASSAY N. ARUNA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me start by appreciating our President for nominating these handsome and beautiful men and women respectively. Our President's decision to nominate these people is of no mistake. The nominees are much disciplined with resourceful characters *[Applause]*. They are qualified and they will use their knowledge and past experiences to formulate sound policies for their various offices *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to those going to the foreign missions, I want to remind them that they are not going there to represent themselves or their political party, but Sierra Leone and the people of Sierra Leone. We are expecting you to work in the interest of Sierra Leoneans. Our brothers and sisters are out there and some are under house arrest whilst others are in prisons. They are looking up to you to you for help. We are pleading that you work in their interest and the interest of Sierra Leone *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am very happy because I can see a lot of women here. I want them to inspire the young female Sierra Leoneans out there. They are looking at us in terms of the leadership agenda we can offer. They are expecting us to produce a very good result for the success of the 'New Direction.' So, I have no doubt in my sisters' abilities to perform. I do not want to call names because I know about **85%** of the nominees present. I also know their characters and I am convinced that they will work in the interest of the women of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to make a short statement about Mr Mohamed Onanah Jalloh, proposed Executive Director, National Youth Service. He is a

man of the youth and he always seeks the interest of the youth. He cares for the youth of this country, not only in Moyamba District, but all over Sierra Leone. He has contributed to the success of many young women and men at the Njala University.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Brima Patrick Kapuwa, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He is my lecturer at the same time once my son in-law. I have no doubt in his ability to perform because I know what he is capable of doing. Mr Sesay has served in and out of this country. He has represented Sierra Leone very well. I know they will produce good result.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to appeal to the women to think about our sisters out there. They are expecting us to set a very good example. I implore you to live up to their expectations.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I implore this House to approve these gentlemen and women to their various offices. I thank you, Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for her contribution. I am totally overwhelmed by the number of Honourable Members seeking to catch my eye. Let the Honourable Members on the front bench rest their beautiful legs. They will have their say later.

**HON. MORMOH BOCKARIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, prior to I want to stand on S.O.[23]. Prior to the commencement of the Fifth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, there used to be three plasma televisions in this Well which were providing clearer view to our visitors and Members of Parliament that do stand up to talk in Parliament. It surprises me to realise that those televisions were taken away immediately after the announcement of the election results. This has greatly disadvantaged our visitors because Members of Parliament occupying the back seats under the Lower Gallery are hardly seen by our visitors when giving their contributions. They cannot see or identify them when they stand up to talk *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank His Excellency the President for always presenting to this noble House young and elegant men and women of noble characters to serve in various positions of trust. I also want to thank the parliamentary Committee on Appointments and the Public Service for vetting these presidential nominees. They have always made our work very easy in terms of approving the nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Member from Constituency 104 spoke about the nomination of youths to serve in various positions of trust in the 'New Direction' Government. I want to tell this noble House and our visitors that the nomination of youth in various positions of trust by His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio is no mistake because the issue of the youths has always been his priority. Prior to his election as President of this Republic, he was writing his doctoral thesis titled; 'The youth factor in Sierra Leone.' He said in his thesis: **"The issue affecting our youths is not only a security threats, but a pending national disaster. If actions are not taken to give them what they deserve and prepare them to handle the mantle of leadership when that time comes..."** Therefore, if the President is appointing youths to various positions of trust, it is out of his desire to see the youths occupying various positions of trust. Please check his doctoral thesis and you will see this information there.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave the indulgence of my colleagues on the other side to continue supporting the President's dreams and aspirations in developing this Nation. I also want to encourage them to support this Government to succeed because when we succeed as Government, your continued existence as an opposition party would be guaranteed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start with Mr Sheku Mahmoud Kanneh, Chief Executive Officer, Road Maintenance Fund Administration *[Applause]*. As the Honourable Member from Kissy Tongi said, our roads are beautifully constructed but we lacked maintenance culture. If you go to Brookfields, for instance, most of the roads

there have worn out. Therefore, we would encourage you to bring the expertise you have gained from the SLRA to maintain our roads.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Mohamed Alie Jalloh is one of the industrious and patriotic Sierra Leoneans I have ever come across. Throughout his work at the NCTVA, that institution has never come under scrutiny.

**THE SPEAKER:** Those at the Upper Gallery be careful. If I hear one more sound, you know what the penalty will be. I will send all of you out. Please maintain quiet and decorum.

**HON. MOMOH BOCKARIE:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, throughout his stay in that institution, the NCTVA has been very effective in our Educational Sector. In my estimation, it has never come under scrutiny in terms of maladministration or corrupt activities. I hope his nomination as Chairman of the Sierra Leone Water Company will help to resolve the water crisis in this country. You have to work towards providing the people of this Nation clean and accessible drinking water. The three towns water projects is a called for concern. I want to inform the nominee that the materials used by the Chinese to construct the one in Kenema are sub-standard. In fact, the people of Kenema have not been able to gain access to clean drinking water because of the sub-standard nature of the materials.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio for presenting this team to this House. I want to admonish the nominees who are going to serve as Ambassadors in various countries that they are not going on a field day or holiday. I want to remind them that social media is everywhere and we will monitor them effectively. You have been hired and it would suit the President to fire you at any moment. So, when you go there, please pay attention to your work and the plans and policies of the President.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to call on this Honourable House to speedily approve these fine men and women who have been presented to us by his Excellency the President *[Applause]*. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution and I will now give the Floor to Honourable Hindolo Gevoa.

**HON. HINDOLO GEVOA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. This is a blessing to catch the speaker's eye. I want to join those Honourable Members who have expressed thanks to the President for presenting these fine nominees. Indeed, they are the finest of nominees this House has seen. I would like to talk about few of them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start with Dr Michael Imran Kanu. He is a young man who has spurred the young generation to pursue postgraduate courses. He loves this Nation and when he got scholarship for his postgraduate studies, he did not only say he wanted to be the only alumni of that institution, he always came back to Sierra Leone to talk to young lawyers to apply for the same scholarship. By so doing, he was able to convince several other young lawyers who have been to that institution and they have come home with postgraduate qualifications. Before now, lawyers exclusively rely on their LLB; but when Dr Imran Kanu showed us the way, many young people desire to become academic doctors. He is a disciplined young man.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Dr Imran Kanu has good standing at the bar. He became secretary of the General Legal Council, which is the highest professional body in the legal profession. While serving as secretary, he raised the bar very high. He was always diligent and meticulous. Under his supervision, lawyers were able to maintain the code of conduct, whereby we were able to have our perception, particularly public perception. He is one person who, during the preliminary investigation, will tell you if you have a case to answer and you will definitely go and answer before the disciplinary committee. I have no doubt that he will make us proud.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai, proposed Permanent Representative, Sierra Leone Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York [*Applause*]. Dr Francis Kaikai spoke to lawyers who have blood in their faces. Well, I want him to talk to the Secretary General of the United Nations to ensure that Sierra Leone gets the things we desire from the United Nations. He is somebody many young people followed, particularly during the warring period. He was able to get those rebels

disarmed and trained. It was a laudable venture and I doff my hats to him. Posterity will continue to smile at you gentility for that huge national service you have performed *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Madam Lucretia Marian Shereef, proposed High Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commission Banjul, the Gambia. I compare you to somebody who has departed from this World, but will always be remembered by the world. I am talking about the former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela. You were arrested for telling the police that what they were doing was not proper. These people came to celebrate independence, but they were taken to Prison. I looked at you and said, Mummy go and face it, maybe it was your destiny. Today, that destiny you believe in has brought you here *[Applause]*. I know several women amongst us who went to Haford School who are extremely proud of you. The students who went to Haford School are extremely happy for your appointment. You are a performer and the adjectives used to describe your seriousness and dedications to duty at the committee level were apt. you are a disciplined mother and we are proud of you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to a young man I usually call my younger brother, who is also a lawyer; Mr Harold Bundu Saffa, proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium. He is somebody who always go for the things he wants. He is a legal practitioner who also suffered and made headlines in our local Newspapers during these elections and when he was appointed in one of our legal arena, we said the police would not arrest you again even if you go there to represent your clients. I have no scintilla of doubt in your ability to perform. You said during your interview that you are an organised young man. I know that you are an organised young man. Your colleagues admire you so much because of your organisation. People would be wondering why the President chose this young man to represent this country as Deputy Ambassador. It is said that when young people wash their hands clean, they will eat with elders. You have washed your hands clean and that is why you are eating with elders today. I am sure God will continue to favour you as you go out there to discharge the functions of that office.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to the Imam of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party. You prayed and God answered your prayers. Mr Koroma is one person whom I have come to admire because of his fervent belief in God. In those days, when people have to say this is not easy, it happened. He said God is great and by the grace of God, the Sierra Leone People's Party will bounce back to power. I believed in him and his conviction got the Sierra Leone People's Party to come back to power. He held the view that if you work diligently, God will reward you and that conviction has got him what he has today. Please sir, we still need your prayers, even when you go there, Sierra Leone needs your prayers. We want you to continue to pray for us and pray for the things this Nation needs.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Brima Patrick Kapuwa, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He is an international relations specialist. He is a convict in pursuit of political pursuit. He is the type I usually call a go getter; a person who will always stand by an institution, irrespective of his professional engagement. We did it together in 2012. You continued even though you went back to that institution to perform a national service; i.e., N'jala University College. You persistently continued to do your own bit, so that Sierra Leone can go to another level. God has made it happened because the Sierra Leone People's Party is back to power. God is showing his handwork to all those in the SLPP. We can definitely get to that height we are yearning for. I believe in you and I believe that once you get there, we will get all the goodies.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind all the nominees that we are law makers and we represent the people. I want you to make us proud. We have got instances wherein those who were sent to represent this country only represented themselves. In 2013, we read on Newspapers that somebody who was sent to represent this country in China as Ambassador involved in sexual activity and was deported. You are the President of Sierra Leone in those countries. Whatever you do there will always come back to you. Please scrutinise those who will be accompanying you to make sure that you are in control.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Haja Isata Thomas, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Kuwait, Kuwait City. That is a country where our young brothers and sisters normally find themselves through a programme known as 'Temple run.' That is a country where people normally go through legal means, but when they get there, things do not always work as expected. Please madam, as a mother, I know there are people in Kuwait who are suffering and would like to come home. I have no doubt that when you go there, you are going to play your motherly role in making sure our people are protected. Please work with other people, so that the pictures of our crying brothers and sisters we usually see will be addressed. Go there and look for programmes that are genuine because we cannot say we can put a stop to it. We need employment and if these programmes are beneficial, sierra Leoneans should benefit from them. We do not want programmes that come through fictitious agencies to take our brothers and sisters out. We would rather be staying here than go to countries where you do not know the route of getting back to your country. This is a serious issue and Kuwait is a country that stands out for such. I want to urge this House to swiftly approve these nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to my younger brother, Mr Alimamy Hassan Bangura, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Conakry, Guinea. He impacted my life positively. If you are doing the wrong thing and a friend or brother stops you, that is one of the qualities of a brother. We have met and you spoke to me in a honest and sincere manner. You are a fine gentleman. I want to remind you that Guinea shares border with Sierra Leone. In fact, we share many things in common and I have no doubt that you are going to concretise the relationship between Guinea and Sierra Leone. I will be calling you more often and again because we still have issues relating to Yenga. If approved by this House, we will be engaging you, especially those of us representing Constituencies 1-7 in Kailahun District. We shall be calling you because we still have issues relating to that area. Our people usually go to buy goods. This means we need good trade relationship with Guinea. Some come to Sierra Leone on a daily

basis to do their business. Therefore, we will be calling you frequently. Members of Parliament will visit you, particularly those representing constituencies 1 to 7.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to urge all of us to approve these fine nominees *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his brilliant contribution, and I want to take this opportunity to recognise the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr Alie Kabba, who obviously has an interest in the proceedings of this House today. Similarly, I want to recognise the presence of the Honourable Bintu Mayers, who is Board Chairperson of the Guma Valley Water Company *[Applause]*.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am going to be very brief because I am overwhelmed by the type of praises being showered on these nominees. In an interview on BBC radio, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio once said: **"I will prove my critics wrong."** It is not that my colleagues on the other side do not want to talk, but they have nothing absolutely to talk against any of these nominees. They will agree with me that these are fine nominees and nobody in his/her right senses will like to criticise them. I want to say Kudos to the President for nominating these people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these nominees are qualified, intelligent, well-grounded and determined. A former President of America once said: **"All of you are qualified, but I am going to give this job to my brother because he is my brother."** Today, all of you are qualified, but I am going to talk about few people. In that regard, I start with the person who has made me feel like a real man in this world; i.e., Mr Rashid Sesay, Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirate *[Applause]*. This is the elder brother to the woman I married. He is a fine gentleman. Without any other consideration, I have known this gentleman for a very long time; and during the period of my acquaintance with him, I found him to be very hard working. He has been an international worker who has made Sierra Leoneans

proud. I believe he is going to serve the people of this Nation. He is not going to serve the Sierra Leone people's Party alone, but every Sierra Leonean.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are talking about names that are not synonymous to the SLPP. Like what an Independent Member of Parliament said that it is an indication to show that this President is a President of the Nation. He do not care which party you belong or the region you come from, as long as you are a Sierra Leonean and you are qualified for the job, he will give you the job *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to my bigger brother whom I have always admired. If people are calling us designers or bluffers, he is one of the few people we copied from. I am talking about Dr Francis Kaikai. He is a very nice gentleman and 'down to earth.' He has made the people of Pujehun District proud and we the younger ones admire your courage. I want to however remind all nominees from Pujehun District that if approved by this House, the District you come from should benefit from your stewardship. Make sure you help the young ones in that district *[Applause]*. You have to create opportunities for the young ones in that district. The young ones should benefit from you, so that when you retired or passed away, they will step in your shoes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when the President and I were in the UK, all of us used to struggle together. Today, you are fortunate to be Ambassadors. A lot of us in the "Paopa" struggled in the UK. Today, count yourself as lucky for being selected to represent this country. You have to look back and say this is the category of people I come from. Make sure you bring everybody on board. I can say the UK is a hub for the Sierra Leone People's Party. If the SLPP is in power today, you contributed **20%** or **30%**. Make sure you increase that to **60%**, so that after five years of the 'Paopa' regime, the SLPP will take over. I have said it here that this is a 'Paopa' revolution. The SLPP is yet to come to power. These elections were won based on the 'New Direction' agenda, led by Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. He is now paving the way for the SLPP to come to power after 10 years *[Applause]*. As Ambassadors, you have to make this possible. You have to make sure that we rule this country for the next 30 years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the nominees I have always admired is Dr Michael Imran Kanu, proposed Deputy Permanent Representative Legal Affairs, Sierra Leone Permanent Mission to the United Nations. He is a young man; and for Sierra Leone, he is the youngest doctor. I am not sure he is two or three months old in that profession. He is however a very fine gentleman. When they were at the Bar Association, they did everything possible for the SLPP. They even spent their own money. I say kudos to you and this appointment is not because you worked for the SLPP, but because the President knows that you are qualified for this job. I pray that God will guide and protect our President. He is a man with vision and a man who works in the interest of people. I want to remind all those who have suffered; APC, PMDC, PDP and SLPP supporters that the President have something good for us *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go my younger brother, Mr Saffa-Woya Rogers, proposed Deputy Ambassador to Sierra Leone Embassy, Beijing, China. I am not sure if I have anything to say about you because you are up to the task. I will just say go out there and do the job for the people of this country. You are not going to wear the flag of SLPP, but the Green, White and Blue flag. You are not going to wear the SLPP logo or to represent the Sierra Leone Peoples Party, but the interest of this country. To the beautiful women seated before us, I want to urge them to go out there and represent the women of Sierra Leone. You have to make the women proud, so that more women will get appointments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will fail in my duty if I fail to recognise my district Chairman, Mr Eddie Sidikie Massally, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Monrovia, Liberia *[Applause]*. When I was a Kamajor, he was my Commander *[Laughter]*. Mr Speaker, life change drastically in that District. While serving as the SLPP District Chairman, I was the Constituency Chairman. Today, he is my District Chairman and I am the Member of Parliament. He has worked so hard for this position. I believe these are the few appointments that the President actually got right. I want to however remind you that you are working to promote the image of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party and the people of Pujehun District. I want you to continue in that line *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Solomon Momoh Christopher Genbeh, proposed High Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commission, Abuja, Nigeria. When I went to Texas for the SLPP Convention, this was the man who told me that we have worked so hard and they would give me all the supports. He said if the SLPP fails to come to power this time, the people of Sierra Leone will suffer. Please make sure the people of this country enjoy the fruit of what you have worked for in Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say kudos to all the nominees and you will continue to be our Ambassadors in 2023, so that our colleagues on the other side will continue to be in opposition. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I now recognise the Honourable Foday Mario.

**HON. FODAY M. KAMARA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, contrary to what has been happening here today and the other days, I want to particularly thank Mr Speaker for the type of Parliament he wants to have in this country. Mr Speaker, I admire you and I do not know if something is wrong somewhere. You have severally warned people to stop praising because you have said that you know the trajectory. In other words, before some people stand to give their speech, you have already known what they would want to say. People should not accept being predictable all the time. What I want to say here is that when we have to deal with, we have to be very objective. As I said on the very first day, we are not here to object to what is good even if we are in the NGC party. What the President is doing is what we should have done. We should have selected competent Sierra Leoneans to occupy prominent positions to enable us succeed. So, if the President has decided to choose competent Sierra Leoneans to man the affairs of the state, what we have to do is to say thank you, Mr President. Perhaps, if you succeed, we are going to see a different Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will start with Mr Samuel Tamba Musa, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium. He is the only nominee I know very well. Perhaps, he has forgotten, but when he was a Director of

Action Aid, there was a position I vied for. I was however not the favourites, but he brought neutral interview panel to oversee the process. I did not get the job because the interview was conducted by neutral people. I know he will do the same thing where ever he goes. I am sure he will do the right thing as he has always done. He believes that if you want to do the right thing, you have to involve neutral people. The moment you begin to look at relationships, there are bound to be problems. I want to thank the Speaker for giving me this chance. I also want to thank the President for what he has done for Sierra Leone. What the President has done is for Sierra Leone and not for Pujehun or Kailahun. I am saying this because these people are going to serve Sierra Leone and not for Pujehun, Kambia or Portloko Districts.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to buttress what the Honourable Member from 001 said. She said that we are not here today to criticise and indeed we are not here to criticise these people. This is because when you look at their qualifications there is nothing negative to say. As somebody said in this Well some time ago, we need the political will to move this country. If those at the top are ready for the change, then the change will come. I am sure having competent people in governance will move this country forward. These nominees will not allow themselves to be manipulated. We do not want people to only think about their own future and prosperity. We want people who will think about Sierra Leone. If you do something bad because you have somebody to protect you, you will be mortgaging the future of this country. This is what you have to think about. We are not here to criticise, but to tell you that you are now public properties.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to tell you something that happens some time ago. I was traveling to Conakry and I was told that there was a meeting on child trafficking. I was informed in my capacity as the Member of Parliament representing Constituency 057. I was not sure whether the meeting was going to take place because I was not expecting it. But the moment I heard about that meeting, I went there and I contributed. I expressed my concerns on behalf of the children of Sierra Leone because I also have children and the children of Sierra Leone are also my children. We proffered

solutions to the problems affecting our children. This is what I want to tell these nominees. We are going to monitor how you execute your duties. It will be my concern to monitor your activities and to see what you are doing. I am not going to criticise, but I have to make sure that you do the right thing. I know you will do the right thing for Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if we focus our attention on the past activities of individuals, this country will not move forward. We do not have to be negative all the time. It will depend on the problem, but we have to be positive. I was a teacher and very active in the classroom. I represented the teachers in such a way that I was always criticising even the Sierra Leone Teachers' Union [SLTU]. In fact, a friend asked whether I had not forgotten a piece of chalk in my pocket to give to my child. I told him it is just a piece of chalk. He said today you are controlling chalk, but tomorrow you will be controlling other things. This is why we do not need to judge people by their past actions. Let us try to focus on the present by helping these nominees. Let us contribute meaningfully to their successes because their successes are our successes and the success of Sierra Leone.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I ask this Honourable House, on behalf of the NGC to approve these nominees. These nominees are competent and they are qualified for the positions they have been nominated. I thank you [*Applause*].

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I think we are now approaching the end of this debate. I will recognise the Honourable Yusuf, followed by the Honourable Veronica K. Sesay, the mother of the House and then the two principal Leaders.

**HON. YUSUF MACKERY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I would like to commend the President for carefully selecting these qualified and experienced Sierra Leoneans to occupy various positions in and out of this country. I want to remind you that the President has done his bit and you own the greater part. After five years, we will now reassess you before we praise you. Of course some of you are going to serve as excellences in various countries. Therefore, you need to ensure your security and the

security of the Embassy staff. I am saying this because we know what happened with our Ambassador in Nigeria few years back. One of our Ambassadors in Nigeria was kidnapped. It was a very big concern to Sierra Leoneans because he was representing Sierra Leoneans and not a political party. I want to remind you that not all countries are safe. You have to make sure that you look after your own security, the Embassy staff and Sierra Leoneans who are residing in various countries. All of you have the experience and the qualifications.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am delighted today over the appointments of women. As we usually say, when you educate a woman, you have educated a nation. Therefore, seeing many women seeking parliamentary approval tells us that we are going to enjoy the benefits from other nations. There are few nominees I need to talk about this morning.

First, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start with Mr Eddie Sidikie Massally, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Monrovia, Liberia. This is not his first time of sacrificing himself for this Nation. I could remember when Sierra Leone was at war, he was brave enough to come back and liberate the people of Sierra Leone. So, going back to Liberia is like a judge going back to his Chambers. I have no doubt in you because you have been in Liberia and you understand the culture and tradition of Liberians.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Brima Patrick Kapuwa, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Based on his international experience and being a responsible lecturer at the Njala University, I know he has the quality that can make us proud.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know that Mr Ernest Ndomahina is very meticulous in fund raising. I know the critical role he played to make sure we are here. Therefore, I want you to foster a very good relationship with the Chinese government, so that development will continue to come to Sierra Leone through your office.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will now go to Ms Victoria Mangay Sulamani, proposed Deputy Permanent Representative, Sierra Leone's, Permanent Mission to the

UN., New York. I knew her by name many years ago; but as God may have it, I finally saw her in Bo some months ago. We drove in the same car from Bo to Freetown. She is dearest to me and I do not want Members to take it differently. That lady has a wealth of knowledge in international relations and has served in that office for years. I am happy for her and I know she will perform. She is going to serve as Deputy Permanent Representative, Sierra Leone's Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

Before I conclude, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to re-echo my sincere thanks and appreciation to the National Imam of the Sierra Leone People's Party [SLPP]. You prayed to the Almighty Allah for the redemption of the people of Sierra Leone. Today, we are in governance and I want to inform you that before you leave, continue with your prayers, so that we will continue to be on this path for forty years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask the nominees to be part of the good history we are about to make. Note that when you take a piece of chalk, irrespective of whatever financial benefit you are getting, but if you contribute or you execute your duty properly, you will be proud and your generation will be proud to be part of the history that will move this country forward.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I urge this Honourable House to speedily approve these nominees. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I would now call on the following Members to take the floor in the following order: Honourable Hassan A. Sesay, Honourable Veronica K. Sesay, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and the Honourable Leader of Government Business.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are here again to approve Sierra Leoneans to serve in various capacities. All the nice things that have been said I cannot say more because I know some of the nominees and some I do not know. I want to draw their attention to certain issues, especially when you are going to serve as diplomats. I want to call on the attention of this House and the general public that these people are going to represent Sierra Leone and not

political parties or individuals. You are not going on your own, but to represent a country. Whatever happens to these nominees out there will reflect on Sierra Leone as a country. I want to state here that the treatment of our diplomats in foreign countries should be respected. They are not there by themselves because they are accredited or given opportunity to go and serve. So, they must be accorded the treatment due every diplomat.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the withdrawal of diplomats did not followed due process. I hope it will not happen to these ones. What has just happened to those diplomats should not happen to other diplomats *[Applause]*. Those who have just been withdrawn are not given their emoluments. This is not encouraging at all. They are Sierra Leoneans and they have served Sierra Leone and not a political party. We are looking at all of these people as Sierra Leoneans who are ready to represent Sierra Leone. If they are exposed to suffering and ridicule, it is not proper.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, I take due note of the point you are making; and of course even with the present nominees, they will be recalled at the end of their tenure just as those who are currently serving in various countries *[Applause]*. However, I want to bring to the attention of this House that certain representations have been made to me as Speaker to take this matter up with the Executive and I have promised to do so *[Applause]*.

**HON. HASSAN A SESAY:** Noted, Mr Speaker. I think that tells you I was on the right track. This is not partisan because all these are my brothers and sisters who are going to serve this country. So, I want to pre-empt the issue, so that such will not happen to other people who are going to represent this country. I take note of that, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** You may pre-empt, but please do not prejudice it.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, I do not think I want to prejudice this issue. I am merely calling the attention of this House to an issue we need to address. I think that is the case, Mr Speaker. On that note, if you have now informed this House and the general public that your attention has been drawn to this issue and a representation

has been made, it means the issue is in the right hands. I am sure it is going to be dealt with accordingly.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to implore these nominees to serve Sierra Leone and not political party. The party that nominates you may not be the party that will protect you. The people will have to protect you because you are working for the people. We want you to go as Sierra Leoneans and serve the country. Please give us what we deserve as Sierra Leoneans. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

**HON. VERONICA K. SESAY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am going to be very brief because if we release these people without adding my voice, it will not augur well. As the Speaker rightly said, I am the mother of the House. I care for everybody in this House, including the President, who is also a Member of this House. There were some rumours going round that the President is seriously sick. His Excellency is here hale and hearty. He is well and he is ready to work. That is why the late President, Dr Ahmed Tejan Kabba used to say 'some people get bad heart,' S.O [2]. I want to state here that our President will live and he will not die. He will live to serve this Nation *[Applause]*. If there is anybody here that is wishing him evil, back to sender *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some people might want to ask this question, 'where are the Ambassadors?' Who are the Ambassadors and what is their TOR? You are representatives and official messengers of the country you are coming from. Anyone chosen to represent a country, be it from Africa or Europe, you are all Ambassadors. You are going to be messengers and representatives of your country. So I want you to take note of that. I want to be partial a little bit. I know that you are all qualified. I am part of the system that interviewed you. All of you are equally important and I know you will perform. I do not want to mention all your names. You are all our party people and you have done so much for the party. You are all excellent and marvellous people. When I went through the list and I saw a particular name, I shed tears, but those tears were tears of joy. That is why I always say here that those who have suffered have a

right to be happy *[Applause]*. You have seen it today, but your tomorrow will be greater than today *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start with Alhaji Brima Elvis Koroma, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Dakar, Senegal. I have known this young man before I came to Parliament. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like him to stand for a while *[Applause]*. This man you are seeing here is a very good example. He is competent, patient and loyal *[Applause]*. He is a gentleman and I have no doubt in his ability to perform. Whenever I visited the party office in the recent past, my heart bled. He always obeyed without questioning. If he was asked to move from one seat to another, he obeyed and complained later. Today, you are here and I want to wish you a blissful tenure *[Applause]*. You have to continue to work hard.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have three things I want everybody to bear in mind; i.e., this is my time, this is not my time, and my time has passed. If you take this along, believe me you will be up there. This is your time to serve this country well. You are going out to represent this country as excellences. There is somebody I have known when I was growing up at Rawdon Street. Today, he is going to serve this Nation. Please go as a Sierra Leonean and represent the people and interest of this country. I have no doubt in your competency. Please continue to be consistent and hardworking *[Applause]*. Despite the challenges you will be facing, continue to be consistent. So, I want to say special thanks to His Excellency for your nomination. May the good Lord continue to guide and protect the President *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to address the women. I know that all the men are fine and competent and you know we are going to approve you. I want to say congratulations in advance. You are going there in special capacity to represent this country. The first thing I would like you to do is to make sure that you familiarise yourself with the Sierra Leoneans living in those respective countries you will be deployed. You need to call a meeting, not an SLPP meeting, but a Sierra Leonean meeting and make sure they show you the loopholes. They will show you all the in and

out of that country you are sent as Ambassadors. Invite them to a social gathering, so that they will feel lively with you. You will not be there alone; we are there with you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Madam Lucretia Marian Shereef, proposed High Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commission Banjul, the Gambia. She is a pusher, a maker, and a developer. I know you can do it because you are a multiplier. This goes to all the women who have been nominated to go out there and multiply. Please go and ensure that issues affecting women are advanced. You are going to represent the other women out there. You are expected to lead and the other women will follow. What men can do, prove to them that women can do it better *[Applause]*. I know you will prove yourself. I have no doubt in your ability to perform.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is another woman who is very hard working and respectful. You can hardly hear her speaks above her voice. She is so respectful and she is a young entrepreneur. She can do it she has been doing it. I am talking about Mrs Francess Virginia Anderson, proposed High Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commissioner, Accra, Ghana. I know Ghana is your second home, but you are going there to ensure Sierra Leoneans living in Ghana are protected. They will help you and I want you to know that this is an enviable job you have got. You are very young, but I have no doubt that you will do it. Let us make use of the young ones. Madam Anderson, please go and prove your mettle. For the past ten years, it was only Members of Parliament paying their dues. I want to thank God because we now have Ministers, Ambassadors and Directors. It was very hectic for Members of Parliament. Please, do not forget to pay your dues. You can come and pay your dues or you send it through other means. In fact, you have to double your payments because you are now our excellences *[Laughter]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind the nominees that they are going as Sierra Leoneans and they should not forget their deputies, especially brothers who are the executives from the Party. Make sure you communicate with your deputies constantly, so that they will be able to represent you in your absence. I want to remind you again that those who have suffered have the right to be happy. Alhaji Brima Elvis

Koroma suffered and he has the right to be happy. Please, go and do your work diligently.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to address the nominees who are going to serve as directors, the nominee for the Maritime. You have seen the disaster, particularly those of us who are from the river line areas. We want boats in our various constituencies. Please take note of this very seriously. Go out and fly the flag of Sierra Leone. Make sure you tell business people that we are here. There are people who are saying that our Economy is in shamble. I specifically call on Mr Ernest M'baimba Ndomahina, who is a business oriented person to bring more business people to Sierra Leone. We want to see more five star hotels here.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want Mr Sesay to ensure that we have mosques in our various constituencies. Please tell those you will meet that we have religious tolerance in our country. We want more Muslims to come here. I am happy for those going to Europe and Africa and I have no doubt that you will perform. If something goes wrong, we will call you. I will be the first person to caution you because you are not going there as 'Paopa.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, those who were saying that our President is sick, I pity them because he is not sick. He is hale and hearty, and he is ready to rule this country. He has asked me to extend greetings to you all. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I wish you well and congratulations in advance *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, give me a moment, please. I really want to thank the Honourable Member for her very constructive contribution to this debate. Let me take the opportunity to address a very important issue that she has mentioned. In the first place, I was a member of His Excellency the President's delegation to the just concluded summit of ECOWAS. Secondly, I would like to say here that I was warmly acknowledged as a Prime Mover, if not the most successful Executive Secretary of ECOWAS, but a Prime Mover of the current revised ECOWAS Treaty signed in 1993 *[Applause]*. On the basis of that, I can confirm what she has just said that His Excellency President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio is very much hale and hearty

*[Applause]*. He is in perfect health. Contrary to all the speculations and the rumours that went viral on social media, he is more than hale and hearty. He came back as bouncy as he left the shores of this country *[Applause]*. As a matter of fact, he was so respected by his peers that some of them even cajoled him into aspiring for the Leadership of ECOWAS; but being an astute Leader that he is, he decided to continue to watch and learn; and at the appropriate time, I am sure he will become Leader of ECOWAS *[Applause]*. I give the Floor to Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Again, I want to thank you for further educating us about what is happening at the big House and the assurance that all is well and safe. As far as our governance structure is concerned, I thank you very much. I am also quite aware of the fact that you are an encyclopaedia of ECOWAS matters and your knowledge cannot be disputed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am going to be as brief as possible. I thought I should make one or two observations. The important points I intend to raise is that you are aware of the fact that you categorised our Embassies in such a way that there are certain countries which we give high premium. For example, China stands differently from Guinea, but Guinea is equally important. I say this because I wish the Minister of Foreign Affairs was here to listen. We have argued over and over again and hope this government will make a difference. Some of us have found it extremely strange, even though we have expanded our diplomatic system. We have for some way or the other ignored France. I think France is a very important country and I think France should be recognised by us as a country where we should have diplomatic representation. We did have representation there, but at some point the system collapsed. I am pleading with the people at the Foreign Ministry and the Minister to bring up this matter at cabinet level for us to be able to consider the possibility of us reactivating our diplomatic representation in France. I say so principally because France is an important country and France is a member of the Security Council. Again, the presence of France in West Africa where we belong is very important. Its influence spreads across the sub-region. Therefore, I think we should not be left behind and we should be part and parcel of

those countries representing France at the diplomatic level. I am merely pleading, Mr Speaker. I hope that the new government of Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio will take this in good part since he too is a semi-Francophone because he speaks some French. Some of us with little knowledge of the French Language, we will be very happy if we have representation in France.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are sending diplomats to various parts of the world, and one of the countries I think we must treat very seriously and which we have continued to treat seriously is China. Sierra Leone played a major role in recognising China at the Security Council of the UN. A good number of us know that during the cold-war days, it was said that Taiwan should represent the Chinese at the UN, but we in Sierra Leone decided that it was wrong and this is why we will never forget people like S. A. J. Pratt and I. B. Taylor-Kamara, who moved the Motion at the UN that we should move this authority from Taiwan to Mainland China. This is why the Chinese have always been very grateful to us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when the current Speaker held an important position at one time in our government; i.e., on this of the isle, we also gave you authority to make sure that you hobnob with countries like China. We have to continue to be very helpful and friendly with the Chinese. We do not want to continue talking about what the Chinese have done in this country, but we know that they have done a little bit in this country, starting from our Stadium to other things, including bridges etc. This should be treated very seriously. So, the gentleman who is going to China should treat China and the government of China very seriously. You should not restrict yourself to Beijing alone. Shanghai has become the New York in China. Therefore, your presence there, especially in our efforts to develop the diplomatic ties and business ties, your will be very useful. You all know that this government and past governments are putting a lot of premium in telecommunications development.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind this House that China is a country we can utilise for that purpose. The Deputy Leader has encouraged him to talk to those

countries and to build their diplomatic representations here, so that we can benefit from the telecommunications sector that has developed in China. This is very important.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about Dr Lansana Gberie, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Vienna, Switzerland. He is one of the young ones we brought up and I am proud that he is an Ambassador. I would always clap for you because you always do well. You have made yourself into an academic and today, you are a diplomat. If nobody mentioned you, I will mention you because I know where we came from.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Jonathan Arthur Derrick Leigh, proposed Deputy Ambassador Sierra Leone Embassy, Berlin, Germany. I have looked at his CV, but he seemed to forget that at one time, He was Vice President of Sierra Leone Association of Journalists [SLAJ]. Members who have spoken actually said everything about you, but you left out the fact that you were Vice President of SLAJ. You have performed remarkably well. I am also very proud that you are going out as a diplomat this time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr M'baimba Lamin Baryoh, proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Berlin Germany. He is one of the most educated medical doctors in this country. I want to recognise him, Mr Speaker *[Applause]*. This is because he is a very important medical Doctor in America. When I went there for medical treatment, the doctors read the documents he gave me. With the leave of the Speaker, the American doctor said: **"Your Doctor in your country almost got 99.9%"** *[Applause]*. Dr Baryoh is my friend and I am very happy that he has contributed to my sustenance. I would say these nominees are fine and I will support their approval. Thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his very constructive and brilliant contribution as usual.

**HON CHERNOR R.M. BAH *[Leader of the Opposition]*:** I am going to disappoint you because I will not be toeing the line of my Deputy Leader *[Laughter]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, whatever direction you will take, it will not be inconsistent with mine *[Applause]*.

**HON CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, if I disappoint you, please do not be surprised.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, you know that you bear my name *[Laughter]*.

**HON CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, unlike most of those who have contributed, having been born, raised and educated in Sierra Leone for a long time, it means I know almost all these nominees. For instance, I have known Alhaji Koroma for over thirty years now. I said it during the course of the interview. On that note, it will be very difficult for me to start picking individuals. I know Dr Kaikai, Mr Ndomahina and Mr Imran is my younger brother.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it will be very difficult for me to talk about them individually. I know Mrs Frances Anderson very well. Her husband is my friend *[Laughter]*. Mr Speaker, having participated in the interview at the Committee level, I want to confirm that we approve these nominees. I will be meeting with you individually to congratulate you. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I really want to thank the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. He lived up to my expectation *[Laughter]*. I never expected he would do any less. He shows that he is a true Chernor like me *[Laughter]*.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS *[Leader of Government Business]*:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like every other day, I want to start by thanking my colleagues for supporting this Motion. But before I say anything, I would want to react to few issues brought out by few of my colleagues. I would start with Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo. He engaged me and he has done that couple of times now concerning our representation in France. I want to assure this House that France and few other countries have been positively considered for diplomatic representation. That will happen very soon.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the outgoing diplomats who have just been recalled. I want to assure them that this government is doing everything possible to ensure that whatever issues they have, they will be resolved amicably. Yesterday, I had a meeting with a representative group, including the former ambassador to Belgium and few others. I assured them that everything will be okay. I want the people of this House, especially my colleagues on the other side and the people of this country to know that as Leader of Government Business, this is an issue that I have already started dealing with. I have engaged key stakeholders at different levels, including the Honourable Vice President. So, I want to assure my colleagues on the other side that in future, you should not keep quiet. You have to participate in the debates and everything will be okay *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what we have here today is a bit different from what we used to see. They are the Ambassadors of Sierra Leone to the outside world. They are going to present Sierra Leone to the outside world. I will only encourage them to do justice to the people of this country. Almost all the Embassies are represented here. Like what every other Member has said, you are going there to represent Sierra Leone and Sierra Leoneans. You have to deal with every Sierra Leonean that comes your way with dignity, irrespective of political party affiliation. We are all Sierra Leoneans and Sierra Leone is the only home we have. I will therefore call on every one of you to do everything possible to live up to your expectations.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start with my elder brother, Ambassador Eddie Massally. I am so proud of you and you have done so well for yourself. You have also done for the people of this country. You defended us when we needed you most; and today, you have been nominated to serve as Ambassador. Please continue the good work you have started over the years. We will give you all the support you need. This Parliament will ensure that you have the resources to do your work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that Guinea and Liberia are key to the security of this country. That is why as Members of Parliament, especially the Leadership of this Parliament, we are going to ensure that those two Embassies, Guinea

and Liberia, are considered very seriously. We will be with you and may lead a delegation, which will include the Leader of the Opposition, to Conakry or Monrovia to ensure that you are doing your job. The intelligence gathering in those embassies for the benefit of the people of this country is very important to us.

Having said that, Mr speaker, Honourable Members, I want to call on every one of you to approve these nominees. I thank you *[Applause]*.

*[Question proposed, put and agreed to]*

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

**THE SPEAKER:** All those on the gallery should not yet leave because you will create more commotion. You must wait until the House is properly adjourned.

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

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, it is now my duty to congratulate and extend my heartiest felicitations to all the diplomatic nominees of His Excellency the President who have been approved by this House. They are no doubt the best of the best that this country can provide. I have no doubt that all of them will definitely live up to the expectations, trust and confidence that both this House and His Excellency have reposed in them. We wish them well in their new tasks. Let me end by once again acknowledging the concerns that have been expressed by a good number of Honourable Members about the plight of our diplomatic representatives presently, who have been recalled home. It is the duty of this country to ensure that they are brought home in a dignified and proper manner in the same way that they will be replaced in their respective Embassies in a dignified and proper manner by the new appointees. I wish all of you very well in your new assignments.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I stand on S.O. [18], an in-tandem with Section 170, Sub-section 7. I hereby give notice that Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Item III on the Oder Paper, be debated. For this purpose, I hereby give notice officially for the records and the Clerk will be furnished with the necessary documentation accordingly. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** I am not afraid. I will have to overrule you as far as S.O. [18] is concerned. The proper S.O is 25 [1c] and let me read for our understanding. It says: **“Unless these Orders, otherwise direct. Notice shall be given of any motion or amendments which it is proposed to move with the exception of the following. [C] a Motion arising out of any item of business, may immediately, after that item is disposed of and before the next item is entered upon”** [Applause].

In light of the provisions of that Standing Order, I am afraid I will have to overrule.

**HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, can I be heard?

**THE SPEAKER:** That is my decision [Applause].

**HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, for the records, S.O [18] is what is applicable. S.O. [25] deals with exception and this is not an exception. This is a specific instrument and it is not an exception. Under S. O. [25], all that has been listed are exceptions, but in this case there is provision under S.O. [18] [Applause].

**THE SPEAKER:** I am afraid your interpretation differs from mine. Mr Leader of the Opposition, I maintain the decision I have made and we will now proceed to announcement.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY [Clerk of Parliament]:** Honourable Members, it is announced for the information of Commissioners that the Parliamentary Service Commission meets on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. I know we will be going on recess, but please let us have the final meeting before the recess. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I will take this opportunity to clarify one or two things less highly misunderstood that my ruling was rather arbitrary. It is not. Let us go back to Standing Orders [18]. It says: “The laying of Papers, Treaties, Agreements and Constitutional and Statutory Instruments involves the delivery, to the Office of the Clerk, sufficient copies, thereof for distribution to Members of Parliament.” Now, S.O [25] deals with

Notice of Motion and that is what the Honourable Member tried to do, to give this House Notice of a Motion and that notice falls within the four corners of S.O. [25] [1C].

Honourable Members, I am afraid you are out of time as far as that particular notice is concerned *[Applause]*. I am afraid, that is my ruling and I stand by it.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

*[The House rose at 3:15 p.m., and was adjourned to Friday, 3<sup>d</sup> August, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.]*