

*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

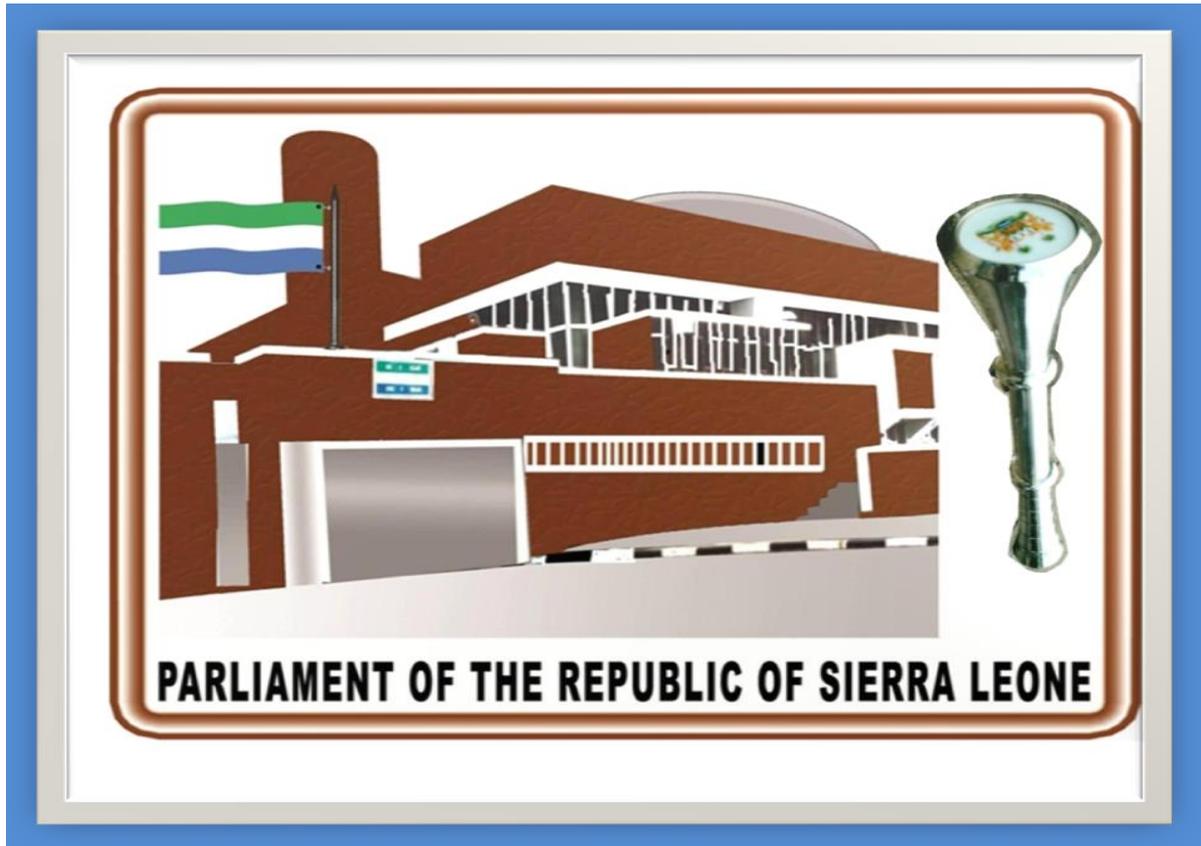
---

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIRST SESSION - THIRD MEETING**

**THURSDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2019**

*SESSION – 2018/2019*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

---

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

**NUMBER: 45**

---

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, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

---

## **CONTENTS**

### **I. PRAYERS**

### **II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> AND FRIDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2018 RESPECTIVELY**

### **III. LAYING OF PAPERS**

[A] HON. LAHAI MARAH

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2017

[B] HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA

CHAIRMAN, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON THE BILL ENTITLED THE FINANCE ACT, 2019

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

PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. HASSAN A. SESAY

BE IT RESOLVED:

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



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

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

---

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

---

**Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.**

**I. PRAYERS**

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

*[The House met at 10:25 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]*

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

The House was called to Order

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I can see you are all happy.

**HON. SIDIE M TUNIS [*Leader of Government Business*]:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to amend the Order Paper under item III [A], 'Laying of Papers.' Instead of Honourable Sengepoh Solomon Thomas, it should now be Honourable Lahai Marah.

Mr Speaker, I wish to further amend the Order Paper to read as 'Record of Votes and Proceedings for Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2018 to now be read as 'Record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2018. We now have two records of votes instead of one.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, I second the Motion.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

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

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to welcome you back from the holidays. I am sure you are happy and I know you would continue to be happy. Thus, I crave the indulgence of all Members of Parliament to ensure that we work for the state and the people of Sierra Leone. In the circumstance, I thank you very much for coming to Parliament. I want to admonish those who are not here today to inform them that we have resumed work and we should be here. I thank you very much.

**II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> AND FRIDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2018 RESPECTIVELY.**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we go through the Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sittings held on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2018. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? Page 11? Page 12? There being no correction or amendment, we now go to the Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup>

December, 2018. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? There being no corrections or amendments, could someone move for the adoption of the Records of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sittings held on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2018 as presented?

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

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. ALICE J. KUMABEH:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[Records of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sittings held on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2018 have been adopted as presented]*

### **III. PAPERS LAID**

[A] HON. LAHAI MARAH

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2017

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, before I lay this document on the Table, I want to use this opportunity to thank the Audit Service Sierra Leone for bringing the 2017 Auditor General's Report. It is indeed timely and I am sure this is one of the legacies of the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the Auditor General's Report on the Accounts of Sierra Leone for the Financial Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017 *[Applause]*.

[B] HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA

CHAIRMAN, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON THE BILL ENTITLED THE FINANCE ACT, 2019

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House a document entitled, His Excellency The President's comments on the Bill entitled, The Finance Act, 2019 [*Applause*].

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

PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. HASSAN A. SESAY

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

##### *1. Introduction*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service that is responsible to vet Presidential nominees to serve in public offices, met on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 and interviewed five presidential nominees for the following appointments:

- [i] Chairman, Board of Directors, Electricity Generation and Transmission Company;
- [ii] Executive Director, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration; and
- [iii] Three Members, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports Authority.

##### *2. Procedure*

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

##### *3. Twenty-Seventh Sitting of the Committee on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2019*

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

[i] Mr David Lansana Bockarie Kamara, Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, Electricity Generation and Transmission Company

Mr David Lansana Bockarie Kamara is an Electrical Engineer of repute. After serving his country for several years at the National Power Authority, he became an international civil servant. He worked for the Mano River Union, 1987-2000, as Energy Research Officer. He then moved to ECOWAS where he served as Director, Department of Infrastructure and Industry, ECOWAS Executive Secretariat, Abuja, Nigeria.

Answering to inquiring questions, Mr David Lansana Kamara gave an account of his background in electrical power systems. **"I have had a very long time involvement in the power sector in this country,"** he said. He started as a lecturer at the Electrical Engineering Department, Fourah Bay College [1976–1987]. Thereafter, he went to Botswana to set up a power system. He said he had worked for the Mano River Union before going over to ECOWAS as Director of infrastructure.

Giving a professional opinion on electricity generation, the nominee said: **"Electricity is a very delicate enterprise. If electricity is not maintained as a business, it can never work. Electricity has to be manned as a business and a strong political will is required."**

[ii] Mr Ken Philip Sondai, Proposed Executive Director, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration

Mr Ken Philip Sondai is a Civil Engineer and Head of Civil Works in the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration. He joined the Maritime Administration in 2002 and rose through hard work to specialise in Maritime affairs.

Responding to probing questions, Mr Ken Philip Sondai said: **"I am a maritime expert and I have worked in the organisation before. So, I know the issues of the organisation. At the moment, Sierra Leone is very stressed in the area of maritime conventions. What had happened over the years is that Sierra Leone has been signing many maritime conventions that have not been domesticated to date. If approved by this Honourable House, one of the things I will do is to speed up the domestication of some of those instruments because they adversely effects revenue generation from ships**

**flying the Sierra Leone flag. The country is losing revenue. So I promise to do my best in revenue generation which the Government needs to improve the lives of Sierra Leoneans."**

*[iii] Mr Hilton Olatungi Jarrett, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports Authority*

Mr Hilton O. Jarrett is the Assistant Director, Banking Supervision Department from 2018 to date. He joined the Bank of Sierra Leone in 2000 and rose through the ranks to his current position.

Answering to inquiring questions, Mr Hilton O. Jarrett said: **"I basically specialised in Economics and Business Management. Based on my background in strategic management, I have also been a lecturer. I know that most institutions fail to deliver on their mandates because of governance issues. If I obtained the blessing of approval by this Honourable House, I would be going to the Authority to look at the strategic objectives and why they failed to meet those objectives. I will help the Board to craft new strategies to ensure that we continue to meet our objectives to turn around the fortunes of the Sierra Leone Ports Authority."**

*[iv] Mr Ahmed Saybom Kanu, Proposed Member Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports Authority*

Mr Ahmed Saybom Kanu is the current Managing Director of the Sierra Leone National Shipping Company. Commenting on the problems that would needed attention, Mr Ahmed Saybom Kanu said: **"I will be going as an institutional representative on the Board of the Sierra Leone Ports Authority. I am coming from the background of institutional reform. I studied organisational management and I will be going with one lens; to look for opportunities to build a strong institution. I believe in building stronger institutions through building up the policy environment. I do not believe in making strong and powerful people. I believe in making strong institutions and I am prepared to work with fellow Board Members, Management and staff for the good of this country."**

*[v] Mr Edward Yarrimeh Kamara, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports Authority*

Mr Edward Kamara is a Trade Unionist and Secretary General of the Sierra Leone Union of Postal and Telecommunication employers, 2009 – date. Mr Edward Yarrimeh Kamara promised to work to the best of his ability to ensure that the President’s dream for this country is realised.

*5. Recommendation[s]*

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

- [i] Mr David Lansana Bockarie Kamara, proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, Electricity Generation and Transmission Company;
- [ii] Mr Ken Philip Sondai, proposed Executive Director, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration;
- [iii] Mr Hilton Olatungi Jarrett, proposed Member Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports Authority;
- [iv] Mr Ahmed Saybom Kanu, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports Authority; and
- [v] Mr Edward Yarrimeh Kamara, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports Authority.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Twenty-Fourth Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the Twenty-Fourth Report of the First Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved. The Report is signed by Hon. Sidie M. Tunis, Chairman.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed]*

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are here again today to approve Sierra Leoneans who have been nominated by His Excellency the

President to serve in various positions. Let me take this opportunity to wish my colleagues a happy New Year. I hope we will continue to work as a Parliament and put this country first.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the nominees before us have been screened by the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service. Some of them have been working in the areas where they have been nominated to serve. One of such persons is Mr David Lansana Bockarie Kamara. When I was a student at Fourah Bay College, he was a lecturer in the Engineering Department. We never interacted, but I heard about him. When you deal with your colleagues you know people who are quality lecturers in their respective areas by interacting with your colleagues in those departments. I think his name came out clearly by then, but we never knew ourselves. I did not know him personally and he did not know me either. Considering the wealth of experience he has acquired over the years in Botswana, MRU, ECOWAS etc., I have no doubt that he is one of the fitted candidates for this job. So, we cannot expect less, but the best from him in trying to improve our energy sector. This country's energy sector has been facing perennial problems. So, we look forward to quality service delivery. I hope he will do the best for this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Ken Philip Sondai, proposed Executive Director, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration. Mr Speaker, judging from what we have read about him, he has done well for himself. As a young man, he has promoted himself and empowered himself and I think he is capable to serve this country. I know that being a young man he would want to maintain a very impeccable record in whatever position he may be called to serve. So, we expect much from him and know that he will deliver.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we know some of these appointments are institutional because we know there are people working in their areas like Ahmed Saybom Kanu. He has been in the National Shipping Company and the Shipping Agency. If approved by this House, some of us will not ask questions because he knows exactly what he will be expected to do. I want to however remind him that failure is not an option. Some of us know that you will succeed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, the proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, Electricity Generation and Transmission Company, Mr David Lansana Bockarie Kamara, stated in his interview that electricity must be managed as a business and we want that to be reinforced, so that people understand that energy is not a free commodity. Energy is very expensive and that is why we have to manage it well. He spoke about the political will, which is very important. From a parliamentary point of view, whatever it takes to help the people of this country improve their live and to grow our economy we will give you our support. I want to assure you that this Parliament ready to give you the political will. I want you to note that this is a sovereign Parliament and that is what we would make this Parliament to look like.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the other nominees, we expect much from them and we cannot ask for anything more. On that note, I want to ask my colleagues to speedily approve these nominees. Thank you very much.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, let me thank my colleague on the other side for his contribution. I think these nominees are qualified and up to the task.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start with Mr Ken Philip Sondai, proposed Executive Director, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration. Mr Ken Philip Sondai is a very young man. When I was going through his resume, I began wondering where this young man had been and how much I think he would have contributed to build this nation. Mr Sondai is a very handsome and hardworking gentleman. I think he would move the Maritime Administration in a better direction for this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if Mr Sondai is approved, I would like him to take certain measures into consideration. For every life we lose is a loss to the country. Sometimes we do not even know whether the person we have lost could become a President, a Minister, the Speaker of Parliament or an Honourable Member. Therefore, as Chairman of the Committee on Transport and Aviation, I want to ask him to make sure that every measure he puts in place to secure the lives and property of the people of this country is done in the best interest of the sub-region. Recently, we lost about seven or more lives in Moyamba. Those we have lost will not come back at all. I want to remind the nominee that the Maritime Administration in

any country should be the backbone of that country. Like he said, we are losing millions of Dollars because most of the laws are not domesticated. The Committee on Transport and Aviation will work closely with him to ensure that some of those agreements are tabled in this Well, so that they are domesticated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I looked at the qualifications of Mr David Lansana Bockarie Kamara, proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, Electricity Generation and Transmission Company, I told myself that we have brains in this country. In other words this country is not short of educated people. We only lack committed Sierra Leoneans. We have people who are more qualified than the job, but commitment to duty is what we lack in this country. Therefore, I now ask the proposed Chairman to be committed to the people of this nation. In as much as all of you are being nominated by His Excellency the President, he did not nominate you because you are SLPP or APC, but because you are Sierra Leoneans with the requisite qualifications. I think he will work in the interest of this country to make sure that the 'New Direction' becomes the right direction the people have chosen in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Ahmed Saybom Kanu, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports Authority. This man has been in administration throughout his existence. I think he is capable of delivering in his duties. I would like to remind him that Ports Authority is a very critical Department; therefore, he is expected to work with the other Board members he will meet there. I am also expecting him to work with the Chairman and the entire administration to make sure that a turnaround at ports is attained. We want a situation wherein people's goods or containers are cleared within 48 or 72 hours. We have investors who usually import goods into this country, but sometimes the demurrage fees are more than the actual customs fees. Therefore, we want to ask all nominees who are going to the Ports to ensure that this change happens.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to urge this House to speedily approve these fine nominees. Thank you very much.

**HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to use this opportunity to wish all my colleagues a happy and prosperous New Year. I pray that

our country continues to make progress in the area of governance and development. With that Mr Speaker, I would like to remind our lucky brothers who are before us this morning seeking the approval of this House. Indeed, they are lucky Sierra Leoneans. All of us are very lucky here because we have millions of Sierra Leoneans, but only a small percentage of us are lucky to hold appointments or elective positions. It is no exaggeration that this country is one of the backward countries on earth; paradoxically, however we are very rich in minerals. We have a lot of minerals and very impressive human resource base, but yet we remain very poor. I am interested in the 'New Direction' because it promised change. The 'New Direction' does not mean that if you are not APC, you are an SLPP. The New Direction is important because it promised change.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for some of us, since we started our schooling, we have suffered in primary school and we have suffered through university. The life of the average Sierra Leonean is still very difficult. With this new regime that has promised change, true Sierra Leoneans should have the moral obligation as patriot to support the new Government. This is because it is true that we either prosper together or we perish together. When Sierra Leone succeeds, it will be a success for all of us; but if we fail, all of us will suffer. Therefore, I want to appeal to you that this is a golden opportunity and most of you were not appointed on political lines. You are representing institutions and there is a very good reason why we should have institutional representation on the Board. This is because you are not only experts, but because you know the issues. You are very experienced and educated enough to bring the change to our heart desires. So, I want to appeal to all of us not have Board Members this time round as we used to have them before. We want Board Members who will bring positive change Sierra Leoneans will want to see. There is no way we are going to succeed if we do not build strong institutions and make institutions strong.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Sierra Leoneans want to see a new Sierra Leone where we have services that are very efficient. We want better living conditions in this country. People would not come from other countries to make this country for us. It has to be done by Sierra Leoneans. I think Members of Parliament, Ministers

and Board Members have to support this Government to succeed. We have to work very hard to support our country. I am saying this because by supporting the Government on all development issues, you are supporting your country. There is no way you can claim to be patriotic if you pray for the failure of this Nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to urge my colleagues over there to work very hard, so that we can achieve as a country. Our country is backward, but this is a new opportunity for us to make progress. As lucky Sierra Leoneans, you are in the seat to drive that change. I know you are working as a team and some of you may not have the authority to bring change as individuals, but I believe you start with yourself. With commitment, perseverance and patience, you can do it. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to say I am independent Member of Parliament. It does not mean if you are not APC, you are SLPP. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Before the next speaker, may I recognise the presence of two fine Sierra Leoneans, Honourable Francis Konuwa former Member of Parliament and Mr Ibrahim Sebureh a seasoned Journalist. Gentlemen, you are welcome.

**HON. DR MARK M. KALOKOH:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity this morning. May I humbly start by giving thanks to God for making it possible for us all to be here as Members of Parliament. The Committee on Appointments has done a very good job and we want to thank them for the assiduous work they have done. They have thoroughly screened these nominees before us and it is now our part to look at the recommendations of the Committee.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is no way a Member of Parliament, like my very self, will question the decision of His Excellency the President. However, I want to raise certain issues or observations. As President of this country, he has the right to hire and fire as per the Constitution. Few months ago, we were in this Honourable House when some Members of Parliament showered praises on a very senior citizen of this country, a female citizen for that matter. She is no lesser a person but Dr Sarah Bendu. As a Member of Parliament, I Honourable Dr Mark Mahmoud Kalakoh, would not ask questions as to what has happened. However, I want to state here that sometimes the procedures used to replace officials from their posts are not correct and I want to underscore that strongly. I have no issue with the nomination

of Mr Sondai to serve as Executive Director of that institution, but I want to question the methodology used to remove his predecessor.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Saybom Kanu. Mr Saybom Kanu whom I have known for several years is a very good policy driver. He always strives to build institutions, and one such institution is the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service [SLBC]. He contributed in putting policies, strategies and control measures which became effective tools for the SLBC. I have no doubt that he will excel in his new assignment. I want you to continue being a patriotic Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to the issue I have started earlier. I am not condemning the nomination of Mr Sondai to serve as Executive Director of Sierra Leone Maritimes Administration, but I am condemning the procedure used. Few months ago, some of you over there were showering praises on Dr Sarah Bendu and even some of us on this side. Today, we are here to approve another presidential nominee to replace her. We want to know what happened.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. I want the Honourable Member who was speaking to look at Section 61 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. That section gives the President the rights and privileges to hire and fire at will. It is in the Constitution and Dr Sarah Bendu was hired by the President and was fired by the President. So, I want him to take note of that. It is the prerogative of the President under Section 61 to hire and fire at will. Thank you very much.

**HON. DR MARK M. KALOKOH:** Mr Speaker, my colleague on the other side was not listening when I started my argument. I based my argument on the Constitution. I said I would not question the actions of His Excellency the President as per Constitution. I know that the President has the right to hire and fire, but I said I am here as a Member of Parliament and I owe obligation to my constituents. As a Member of Parliament, I am saying the procedure used at this particular time to remove Dr Sarah Bendu was not correct. Some of us would not like such to happen again. It is not good for our country and it is not good for our democracy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will exempt myself from Members of Parliament who are going to nod their heads in the approval of subsequent nomination of this kind. I want to thank all nominees who are lucky to be nominated by His Excellency

the President. They have been given the responsibility to ensure that as surrogate of the President, you will defend the policies and programmes of the 'New Direction.' You are not there as individuals to preach tribalism and unpatriotic sentiments. In the same token, you are not there to squander what you are going to meet there. I hope you are going to build up a formidable team that will ensure service delivery in your various institutions. I want to thank you Mr Speaker.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to begin by thanking His Excellency the President for presenting to us fine nominees. I have listened to my colleagues on the other side. My colleague who has just spoken is very new in politics. He has not been following up governance issues. Some of us who have been in this Parliament have had situations where we have approved Board members and less than a week, they were relieved of their duties. For instance, we approved the Board of Rokel Commercial Bank in less than one month, it was dissolved. We approved the Board of NATCOM in this House and in less than two months, it was dissolved under former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma. So, replacing people is the prerogative of His Excellency the President as contained in the 1991 Constitution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want the nominees to consider themselves as very lucky to be selected from among the many Sierra Leoneans who have suffered for this Government and for this country. As you are going to your offices, we expect no excuses but performance. There is a social contract between the 'New Direction' and the people of this Republic. We have promised them to deliver and we must deliver. The nominees are going to help us achieve our goals.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I start with Mr Ken Philip Sondai, proposed Executive Director, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration. He is a young man and I have gone through his resume. He has wealth of experience in the Maritime sector. However, I want to remind him that that sector is very challenged at this moment. We inherited a very bad maritime system. As a young man, you are not nominated to serve in that position because you are young, but because we expect you to deliver for the young people of this country. I want to assure you that if you deliver, the President will trust the young people and more young people would be given

positions. Therefore, you should not disappoint the young people. Of course, this is no secret that there has been a problem in the Maritime sector and that has led for the removal of the former Executive Secretary and her Deputy. Please, we do not want to hear such reoccurrence. We want you to work with your deputy because both of you are nominated by His Excellency the President. You have to work hand in glove for the success of that Department.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some of these nominees are institutional representatives. I want to admonish them to deliver to the point that the APC would constantly be in opposition. This is because what you would do is what would keep us on this side. If you fail us, definitely we would be on that side. Please, we want you to deliver, so that we would continue to be on this side. We rely on you and we do not want excuses. We want you to perform for His Excellency the President and the people of this country.

With these few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you very much and ask my colleagues to approve these nominees. Thank you very much.

**HON. VERONICA K. SESAY:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I believe we are here after enjoying our Christmas and the New Year. I must say these people are very lucky because they have started the 'New Year' on good footing. I have no doubt in their capacities to perform. I was part of the interview process and we observed that they were over qualified.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to admonish the nominees to acquaint themselves with the 1991 Constitution of this country. I am saying this because I want them to understand the roles of Members of Parliament. They should know the importance of the parliamentary Committees. Thus, I now refer you to Section 93 [3] of the 1991 Constitution. Please take that as your verse in the Constitution because some people are misunderstanding and misusing their duties. You have been nominated by His Excellency the President. The President did not say go and start work, but he referred you to Parliament for final approval. Well, that is what we are doing now and that shows the importance Members of Parliament. You have heard from Members of Parliament and I want you to go and work diligently. Make sure you work together and ask relevant questions where necessary.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Maritime. It was unfortunate for the women and we felt disappointed. It is indeed a minus, but it is the prerogative of His Excellency the President to hire and fire. There is nothing we could have done because you have heard from the other Honourable Members. We do not want that to happen again. We are asking all women who have been approved by this House to go to their offices and work for the people. I am asking the Parliamentary Female Caucus to follow up, so that we would be asking you how you are faring. I have no doubt in this gentleman's ability to perform because he has been in that institution and he knows everything about Maritime. I know that is an enviable seat, but be reminded that you are going there to work. Let me tell you I am coming from the riverine area. You have to pay attention not only to aircraft, but to also protect our people who usually travel by sea. I think I mentioned this to you and I am sure you will perform. Again, I have no doubt in all of you. I want to remind you that the Committee on Appointments will pay an oversight visit to see whether you are doing what you told this House and the Committee.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to congratulate you in advance because I know you are going to be approved. Thank you very much.

**HON. ABU BAKARR FOFANAH:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I have the honour this morning to gratify a well-meaning Sierra Leonean, an astute Sierra Leonean, a person I want to refer to as a social commentator and a humanitarian. He is a non-partisan politician. Mr Speaker, even though he belongs to SLPP, he transcends beyond the green. He is an industrious Sierra Leonean like a seed planted that has the potential to grow good fruits. He is no less a person, but Mr Ahmed Saybom Kanu. Mr Speaker, it is not because of praise singing, but whatever I say is very serious. Those who come from Waterloo and the Western Rural will lend credence to the President's nomination. His humanitarian gesture springs far beyond the green colour. He is a philanthropist. S. O. [2] I was on a podium where a woman said: **"if ar nor bless Saybom ar nor go bi lek how ar bi so."** If such person has been identified by the President, then I must commend the President. However, our expectation is to see whether the lens can produce its good sight and I therefore crave the indulgence of Mr Saybom Kanu. Today is the first day I am contributing to

the approval of presidential nominees and I do not praise sing for whatever reason. Mr Speaker, anytime I stand here and say this man is good, indeed he is good. Therefore, we expect much from you. You are our brother and you are a noble man. I thank His Excellency the President for nominating you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr David Lansana Bockarie Kamara. He is wonderful and a serious minded Sierra Leonean. There will be no regret for his nomination to that institution. I want to remind you that the people I represent, Waterloo, Lumpa and Newton to be specific, are looking forward to getting electricity. Mr Saybom Kanu knows very well that we need electricity. Therefore, I crave your indulgence to provide electricity for my constituents. Of course, it is the responsibility of government to provide electricity.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say it is too early to throw stones, but it is important to discuss issues of national importance. The people out there are looking forward to the 'New Direction' to salvage them from suffering. I therefore crave the indulgence of this House to put Sierra Leone first, so that we will have a better Sierra Leone. God bless you all.

**HON. ABU KEMOKAI:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to join other speakers to send messages of the New Year. My contribution is going to be very short. I want to talk about the Maritime Administration. Mr Speaker, part of my Constituency is predominantly riverine area. Many of those communities are difficult to access without using boat. Therefore, I want to draw the attention of the proposed Executive Director of the Maritimes Administration to pay attention to our local people who are residing in those communities. Some of them have been volunteering to serve as Maritime Officers. I want to recommend that in terms of recruitment, let us take into account people who reside within those localities. I am saying this because they are familiar with the terrains of those communities. In other words, if there are proposals for recruitment, I want you to consider those living in those communities. I thought this is an opportunity for me to bring this to your attention. Our people want to serve in those capacities because they are already there and they are familiar with the environment.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to communicate this message to the proposed Executive Director of the Maritime Administration.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO** [*Acting Leader of the Opposition*]: Mr Speaker, this is yet another historic day in our activities as a Parliament and we are also aware of the fact that the President will continue to meet his statutory obligations. We are not going to use this forum to argue on matters that are very clear in the Constitution. Thus, appointments or non-appointments, the important thing is that traditionally our participation is restricted to just appointments. When Sierra Leoneans are given jobs and are fired, we do not take part in those decisions. It is very clear in the Constitution that if you lost your job, you simply have lost your job.

Having said that Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to recognise the fact that the appointment of Mr Bockarie Kamara was a well thought out idea not only because he is a great academician who had taught at Fourah Bay College, but because of his participation in international organisations to bring about developments in third world countries. I will pay tribute to him because of the role he played when we were about to land the submarine cable in Sierra Leone. He gave us his knowledge in science and we benefited from it. Of course, whenever I went to Abuja [when he was at ECOWAS], he was always there to give information to people who needed that information. To me, his appointment is not controversial and it is the right thing to do. He may have come earlier in life to be more useful, but the important thing is that it is a good appointment.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Ahmed Saybom Kanu, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports Authority. For those of us who are members of the Poro Society, we know that it is a very important position in the Poro Society. I first came across this man when I was a councillor at Statistics Sierra Leone. At Statistics Sierra Leone, he turned out to be one of the most aggressive young men who wanted change and we respected him for that. Once in a while he had confrontations with the Chairman, but of course that was what young men sometimes do to get what they want. He has performed remarkably well when I was at Statistics Sierra Leone. Later, he also did very well in providing ideas and

concepts for newly created institutions. That again is a very good choice made by the President. This is a very good nomination because he is going to use his institutional knowledge to go to Ports Authority for the purposes of creating a new face.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are not going to waste more time because the facts have been stated. Again, the administrative problems at Maritime will be solved as time goes on. This is why I think the nominee will do his best to make sure the problems are solved. We on this side always respect those who have performed well in this country to give credit to whom credit is due. Thus, the late President, Dr Ahmed Tejan Kabba saw the need for Sierra Leone to be a member of the International Maritime Organisation. And one of the conditions was for us to set up our own domestic Maritime Administration and the expert in that area cooperated. Today, we have a functional Maritime Administration and we just have to make sure that whoever goes there does so with the purpose of adding value to the successes already achieved.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that all the other nominees are well chosen and like I said earlier, we on this side will continue to demonstrate that we are part and parcel of this system and we will continue to cooperate with the Government. This is because we want to prove that we cooperate with this Government. We want it to be made very clear that we do not come here to criticise just because we want to criticise. It is important for the SLPP, APC, and other political parties to work together for the benefit of this country.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you very much and I think we should not waste more time but to make sure that these nominees are approved, so that they can go to their offices and perform the duties for which they are appointed to do. Thank you very much.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS [*Leader of Government Business*]:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank my colleagues for their support in this particular debate. I believe Honourable Members have made salient points. I want to wish you all a Happy New Year. We have very good nominees this morning. We have about thirteen nominees to be interviewed tomorrow. Honourable Members

have made salient points regarding Maritime Administration and the new Executive Director has a lot to do. I was personally very impressed during our interview considering the fact that he has so much knowledge on Maritime issues.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr David Bockarie Kamara was our lecturer. He lectured the Committee, even when we asked him to stop, he said he wanted to explain to the Committee about electricity. We wish him good luck if this Honourable House approved his nomination.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Ahmed Saybom Kanu. We were together for several years. In other words, I have known him for several years and he is a very good friend of mine. I have so much confidence in him and I know he will perform his duties very well at the Sierra Leone Ports Authority. Mr Kamara and Mr Jarret are professionals in their own rights. Mr Jarret is a professional economist. I believe he will provide knowledge and expertise to the Board of Directors of the Sierra Leone Ports Authority for the improvement of the Ports. As a trade unionist, I hope his nomination will bring stability in the country. He assured the Committee of stability and we will monitor his steps. We want to encourage you to work very hard for the welfare of the workers of Ports Authority. I want to therefore call on Honourable Members to speedily approve these nominees. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

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

**THE SPEAKER:** I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your new appointments. I hope and pray that you make this nation proud. Several people have occupied these positions or offices once upon a time. They came to this House for approval with many promises, but at the end of the day nothing much was achieved. Please work hard in trying to make a positive difference. I thank you very much and congratulations *[Applause]*.

#### **IV. BILL**

THE FINANCE ACT 2019,

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA CHAIRMAN LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House amend the Bill entitled, 'the Finance Act, 2019' to accommodate the comments made by His Excellency the President in accordance with the Standing Orders 58[6] and Section 106 Sub-section 7 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991.

*[Question Proposed]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, the day is far gone and I will only allow the leaders.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH *[Leader of the Opposition]*:** Mr Speaker, I am sure this is a very straight forward amendment. The comments from His Excellency the President were laid this morning and they are non-controversial. We did our job as Members of Parliament by passing the Bill into law, but having looked at it, the President has made some comments and those comments are recommendations from the Executive. So, if in his own wisdom has decided to think again what they have agreed on earlier, I see no reason why we should not support him. On that note, I endorse Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS *[Leader of Government Business]*:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, just a follow up of what the Leader of the Opposition has just said that this particular amendment is not controversial. We are to expunge Section 31 of the Finance Act of 2019 from the Act. I therefore urge Honourable Members to support it. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Daniel Koroma, please refer to the specifics.

**HON. DANIEL KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I seek your permission for the attention of the public for them to know exactly what is happening. I will read the letter forwarded to Parliament from the Office of the President in respect of the Bill entitled the Finance Act 2019. It is titled 'Request for Presidential Assets.' It reads: "**I return here with copies of Act of Parliament as reviewed with the following comments:**

**[1] Appropriation Act 2019 as per telephone conversation the date, year of the Presidential Assent should be in agreement with the year of the Act. Please resubmit, after the necessary correction.**

**[2] The Finance Act 2019, His Excellency the President is concerned that Section 31 does not inject competitiveness into the insurance industry and has the propensity to stifle the growth of the insurance companies. On this note, His Excellency the President is of the view that companies should endeavour to create their own comparative advantages and attract clients within a liberalised and business friendly environment. In light of the above, I am to kindly ask that Section 31 of the Bill be reviewed to eliminate monopoly and to ensure a level playing field for all companies to operate unhindered and in conformity with the business friendly guidelines. Please pursue action as indicated above and return same for the assent of His Excellency the President.”** This letter was signed by Dr Julius F. Sandy, Secretary to President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this provision does not, in any way, take away the supremacy of Parliament in respect of law making as enshrined in Section 105 of the 1991 Constitution. What is happening now is in accordance with Section 106 Sub-Section [8] of the 1991 Constitution. Parliament has the power to reject this request and that is why even the Office of the President does not use the word 'order' but 'request.' Therefore, I want to inform the public that this is a request that Parliament considers to be within its supremacy. I want the public to know that we are not averse to this suggestion. This is because as far as we are concerned, it creates level playing field for all insurance companies to thrive.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform the people of this country that as far as law making process is concerned, Parliament is the supreme legislative body of Sierra Leone. The Constitution provides that when we enact Bills, the final stage of the enactment is the assent of His Excellency the President and in the event he does not sign or append his signature, then the Parliament can do that as stated in Section 106, Sub-section [8]. The Speaker can sign instead of the President if Parliament disagrees with the comments of the President. In this case however and

in my capacity as Chairman of Legislative Committee, having consulted with my leadership, we see no reason why we should not honour this request.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to encourage all of us to support this request. Thank you very much and God bless you *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Well spoken, Honourable Daniel B. Koroma.

*[Question Put and Agreed to]*

*[The Motion to amend the 2019 Finance Act has been carried]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Veronica Kadie Sesay.

**HON. VERONICA K. SESAY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O. 23. I stood in this House last year to tell Members of Parliament that I was nominated for the best 2018 Film Producer National Award. I want to happily inform this House that notwithstanding our status as Honourable Members whose major functions are to legislate, oversee and represent, there are however other things we could do to tell the public that there is life after Parliament. In this House, there are medical doctors, teachers, lawyers, contractors and other spheres of life. I am an entertainer and I am proud of that profession. I want to state here that I won the award for the best film producer. The title of the film is 'Ningiwo, which is cultural movie. Therefore, I want to dedicate this award to this Parliament because it was awarded to a Member of Parliament. This wonderful trophy is **45%** gold. This means it is not a fake trophy.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank all Honourable Members who were with me till 4:00 a.m. I also thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. He was not there, but he sent his voice and representatives. I am very happy. I also thank the Honourable Nenneh Lebbie and all those who voted for me both, here and the ECOWAS. I want to thank you for your votes. I will continue to live up to your expectations. I will have more movies and we will win more awards. I have won from Philadelphia and I want to say we can do more.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to draw the attention of the nominees to an issue I would like to bring to the Floor of this House. I want the nominees to listen attentively because they could be victims of what I am about to explain. I want to draw the attention of the nominees to the Section 93 [3] of the 1991

Constitution of Sierra Leone. Mr Speaker, I want to state here that I was molested by the Executive Chairman of the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board. I am the Chairperson of the parliamentary Committee on Trade & Industry. This man wrote a letter, complaining me as the Chairperson of the Committee on Trade & Industry. This is the letter and I read the paragraph. This paragraph touches me so much. He wrote a letter of complaint to the Leader of Government Business and copied State House. When I went there, he said he was not answerable to Members of Parliament, but to the President who gave him the job and the Chief Minister. I am bringing this issue to the House because the man in question has reduced my integrity. I will not take it kindly, but I thought I should bring this issue to this House.

**THE SPEAKER:** I give the Floor to Honourable Hassan A. Sesay.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, one particular aspect of the letter caught my attention. The man in question said he was only answerable to the President and the Chief Minister. What I was told by the affected person is what I am referring to, Mr Leader. If the Honourable Member is telling us in this Well to the hearing of every member of the public, I am sure she will not be far from the truth. We have to invite the individual to come to this Well and tell us whether he said what the Honourable Member has told us or not.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to move a Motion to summon the head of that Parastatal to this House to answer questions that will be asked by Honourable Members *[Applause]*.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Any seconder to that Motion?

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before we second that Motion, I want every Member of Parliament to know that an attack on one Member of Parliament is an attack on all of us *[Applause]*. It is disheartening to see presidential nominees in this House in a humane and submissive manner, but after their approvals, they show no regard or respect to Members of Parliament. For an Executive Director to tell an Honourable Member of Parliament in a letter that the Honourable Member should be called to order, is an insult to this House. Therefore, I second that Motion *[Applause]*.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*  
*[Motion to summon the Executive Director of the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board has been carried]*

**THE SPEAKER:** On that note, I hereby order the Clerk of Parliament to summon the Executive Director of Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board to Parliament against the next adjourned date *[Applause]*.

**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise on S.O 23, to inform this House and the general Public that the security details of the Leader of Coalition for Change, Chief Alhaji Abubakarr Sam Sumana has been withdrawn by the Inspector General of Police. Mr Speaker, you would recall that Chief Sam Sumana has held the second highest office in the Republic of Sierra Leone.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, please read S.O. 23.

**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** My conclusion will show whether it would be controversial or not. Mr Speaker, I am aware of the fact that it should have nothing to do with controversial matter, but listen to my conclusion and you will determine. My conclusion will determine whether it will be controversial or not.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hold on, Honourable Member. Honourable Member, do you wish to depart from that premise before you reach your conclusion?

**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** Noted, Mr Speaker. I call on the Office of Mr Speaker to engage the Attorney-General and the Inspector General of Police for the swift restoration of the security details of Chief Alhaji Samuel Sam Sumana. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Noted. Yes Honourable.

**HON. AARON A. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O 23 to pay a special tribute to the Honourable Veronica Kadie Sesay. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure over **90%** of Members of Parliament have received their name tags, which she personally funded to befit the integrity of Members of Parliament. Thus, I want to state here that over **90%** of Members of Parliament have received the tags that befit the status of Members of Parliament. I want to thank and congratulate her for the award she received from the National Entertainment Awards. We believe that this is not the first time she has received

such award. I am sure she will continue to receive many more awards. I thank you very much.

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

**HON. MOHAMED S. KASIM-CAREW:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O 25. I have a serious issue I want to bring to the attention of this House. I am in possession of a letter which was drafted on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 to the Executive Chairman, National Asset Commission and Government Property.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. S.O. 25 is a Notice of Motion. In fact, S.O. 25 is very ambiguous and I would like the Honourable Member to refer us to the specific Standing Orders. We want to be very clear with what to do with your observation or comment. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Proceed, Honourable Member.

**HON. MOHAMED S. KASIM-CAREW:** With the permission of the Speaker, I have a gazette dated Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2018. It is titled, Extra Ordinary Gazette for the Auction at the Water Quay.' I move that this House suspends all activities relating to the auction until this Parliament and the Asset Commission verify every container, vehicle and other items at the Queen Elizabeth II Quay.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable member, are you giving Notice of a Motion or moving a Motion?

**HON. MOHAMED S. KASIM-CAREW:** I am moving a Motion, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please proceed.

**HON. MOHAMED S. KASIM-CAREW:** I move that we suspend all auction activities until this House verify all vehicles and every container at Water Quay.

**THE SPEAKER:** I want the Leaders to please meet me. Honourable Member, having consulted the leaders of this House, I want to plead with you to suspend that Motion till the next adjourned date. However, I now order for the suspension of all activities relating to that till Tuesday. Mr Clerk, please ensure that the relevant information is disseminated to the relevant authorities, so that everything relating to auction at the Quay is put on hold forthwith until Tuesday, when this House would have looked into the issue. Thank you very much.

**HON. MOHAMED S. KASIM-CAREW:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O. 23, in tandem with S.O. 25. The issue of National Security is an issue that has to do with everybody in this country. Whatever that is going on in this country that we think infringes on the rights and liberties of any Sierra Leonean, it should be a concern to all of us here [*Applause*]. You overruled the issue that was raised by our Leader few minutes ago. This is very serious and we on this side believe it is necessary to bring it to the attention of this House. Personally, it did not go down well with me as an individual. Thus, I stand on S.O. 25 to move a Motion that the order of the IGP to withdraw the security details from the residence of the former Vice President of this nation is illegal and is uncalled for. I want to ask this House to resolve this issue with immediate effect. The withdrawn police personnel should be reinstated to the Leader of C4C.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we should not allow or support anything that is wrong. It is our responsibility to condemn anything that is wrong. I want this House to ensure that the security personnel at the residence of the former Vice President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Chief Alhaji Sam Sumana, are replaced with immediate effect. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, I do not think any Member of Parliament here is in support of removing security personnel from an individual. That is not the point. What I am saying is that I think it is better we invite the Inspector-General of Police to this House to explain to us why he did what he did. I think this is very important and we must invite the Inspector-General of Police here. We should not be seen undermining the effectiveness of the Executive branch of Government. The Executive is an independent branch from the Legislature. Therefore, if they took a particular action, let us try to understand the rationale behind it.

**HON. SAHR CHARLES:** Mr Speaker, in as much as we respect the Executive Arm of Government in executing its function, they also need to respect the Legislative Arm in executing its own functions. Our mandate, as a Parliament, is to protect the Constitution of this Nation. Therefore, if we see any breach of the Constitution, it is our duty to bring it to the public.

**THE SPEAKER:** In that regard, I order that the Inspector-General of Police is summoned to appear before the Internal Affairs Committee and a report to be submitted to this House by the Internal Affairs Committee.

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O 23. I stand in this Well of Parliament to appreciate an Organisation that is based in Kambia District which has contributed to the livelihood of my people. They have contributed towards improving the educational system of Kambia District and the country as a whole. As recent as in November and December, 2018 have constructed schools in my constituency by 'Sunday Foundation.' And one of the projects is funded by a World Superstar Footballer, Robin Van Persie, who has never been to Sierra Leone. He has sponsored the school at 'Robiosong' Village and that school is now functional. That village has been without a school. As we speak, the school has attracted over 500 children. On behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone and the Ministry of Education, I want to thank Mr Robin Van Persie and his 'Sunday Foundation.' I would also like to thank the co-ordinator in Netherlands who has been crowned years ago as Komrabai Kollenten of Kambia District, Magbema Chiefdom for his laudable efforts. This is not only limited to my Constituency. They have also built a female school at Hastings. They have implemented a project in Bo and they are intending to implemented more projects around the country. I think it is but laudable to appreciate such an Organisation, the founder and the Co-ordinator, Mr Kamara who is based in Kambia. I think when they move to other constituencies across the country, they would also network with other Members of Parliament. I want to use your kind office to appreciate them for their efforts. Thank you very much.

**HON. MOHAMED BANGURA:** Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to inform you that the IGP is not taking the security of Members of Parliament seriously. Now that we are summoning the IGP to appear before the Committee, I want to bring this to your attention. Members of Parliament are very important people, but they are gullible to the public for the past few months. The IGP has refused to give Members of Parliament police protection and we have evidences. We want him to explain to the Committee why he has not done anything.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Chairman of the Internal Affairs Committee, please take note.

**HON. PETER M. MOIGUA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am sure the Clerk of Parliament gave us the standing Orders and the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone as instrument to facilitate our work. I want to state here that Members of Parliament are not using the S.O. 23 properly. S.O 23 states that no controversial matters may be brought forward or any debate arises upon the explanation. I am talking about the previous statement, Mr Speaker. Why are we summoning the IGP when S.O 23 says we should not encourage controversial issue? This issue is controversial and we do not need to invite the IGP here.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Peter Moigua, please stand up. We are not summoning the IGP under S.O. 23. We are summoning the IGP as a result of a Motion. Honourable Members, let us allow a female Member of Parliament.

**HON. JOSEPHINE MAKIEU:** I thank you, Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I stand on S.O. 23 to report to this noble House that I have recently commissioned a six classroom primary school building in my Constituency and a periodic market centre. I now inform Honourable Members that if they are interested in fresh vegetables and palm oil, you will get them in that market in my Constituency. You can go there on Tuesdays and Fridays *[Applauses]*.

**THE SPERKER:** I will allow two more contributors from either side of the isles.

**HON. ABUDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I firstly want to commend the Chairman for the Committee on Information and Communication, Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma. We had a session with NATCOM regarding the dismissal of 91 staff at NATCOM and we introspectively looked at it and advised them to take the necessary actions. Mr Speaker, a similar incident took place in my Constituency and it is very serious. I have not had ample sleep since that sacking started. The Sierra Leone Airport Authority, which falls under my Constituency, has suffered several sackings un-procedurally. I am not talking politics because I am a Sierra Leonean. I have always said until we think Sierra Leone, this country will not progress *[Undertone]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I can confirm to this House that there has always been mixed political shades of opinion at the Sierra Leone Airport Authority. If you go there, you will find workers who are loyal to the SLPP, the APC and even the NGC. I think we have to cohabit as Sierra Leoneans as provided in Section 29 of our Constitution. This is just to inform you that what I have said is being confirmed. Ten indigenes of Kafu-Bullom Chiefdom have been un-procedurally sacked. There were over 50 vacancies existed and guess what they did. They employed all those who aspired under the SLPP ticket as Councillors but lost the elections. This is very sad for this country. Those who aspired as Members of Parliament under the SLPP but lost were the ones being employed. Also, those who served as Constituency Executive for the SLPP have been employed. They disregarded competence and qualification. This is very worrisome for our country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that if the APC were in governance and did what the SLPP has done, I would have castigated them for such action [*Applause*]. It is high time we began to realise that we are all Sierra Leoneans. Those who have been sacked have been trained. One of them was taken to Casablanca and other countries for training, but he has lost his job un-procedurally. I am a trained and qualified Engineer by profession and I have practiced for over twelve years. I can put it to you that somebody who did not even read Engineering not even Social Studies or General Science has been employed in the Engineering Department to work as an Engineer because he is an SLPP supporter. He is not an Engineer by profession.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to inform this House that the Chairman of the Committee on Transports and Aviation has been very tolerant. This is because I have heard about how he has been addressing some of those issues at the Sierra Leone Airports Authority. So, I want to call on this House, through the Chairman of that Committee, to look into those issues carefully. There is always a provision for recommendations from Members of Parliament which has been discarded over the period of time. I want this House to look at it keenly. The SLPP is power today, but tomorrow could be different. We should not begin to practice what we will not

tolerate in future. This is the issue that has created discord and rowdy atmosphere in my Constituency.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are Honourable Members who have issued press releases or letters to tell their constituents that they have received their Constituency Development Fund [CDF]. They further stated that the Constituency Development Fund was given to every Member of Parliament and that they should be accountable to their constituents.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we were here when the Speaker of this House said unequivocally that the money in question was not CDF. It was meant for rental or construction of office space in our constituencies. It was made clear that Members of Parliament would not receive CDF in the next five years. So, we want this House to make it clear to those who are trying to score political goals should send the correct message. We want it to be made clearly here that Honourable Members did not receive CDF as presented to the people by some Members of Parliament. I want to appreciate the Clerk of Parliament for his swift reaction to the issue. He has been up and down, trying to educate the public. I want to inform this House that he is one of the most active Clerks of this House who is always ready to defend Honourable Members once they are being implicated. He has been on several media, defending Members of Parliament. I heard him this morning on FM98.1. I want to seize this opportunity to implore your good office to strongly warn Members of Parliament who think the only way they could score political goal is to send fake public notices to their constituents.

**THE SPEAKER:** Alright, Honourable Member.

**HON. RTD CAPT. HAFIJU M. KANJA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish you all Happy New Year. I stand on S.O. 23 to talk about what is happening in my Constituency. You all know that my Constituency is located at the centre of this country. I share boundary with Bo, Tonkolili and Kono Districts. My Constituency is 018, Golahun Mende Chiefdom, Kenema District. I am having some negative activities around the other Chiefdoms, particularly the Chiefdom were the Honourable Paramount Chief Member of Parliament, Honourable Bai Kurr Kanagbaro Sanka III comes from; i.e., Masingbi in Tonkolili and Nimiya Chiefdom in Kono.

The Chiefdoms are expected to coexist amicably, but the two Chiefdoms I mentioned, especially in Masingbi is a problem. There is Police checkpoint at Masingbi that is asking all those traveling from Kenema District to Tonkolili District to pay the sum of **Le5, 000** per person as tax before they are allowed. They also pay for their goods. This is very pathetic for my people. Whatever agricultural produce they bring to Masingbi, they have to pay for them. I took this issue with the Honourable Paramount Member of Parliament, Chief Bai Kurr Kanagbaro Sanka III and he tried to solve that problem with his Chiefdom authorities. However, I am continuously having problem with the Police check point at Masingbi. Asking people from Kenema District to pay **Le5, 000** and additional payment for their goods is also happening at Nimiyama Chiefdom.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is river known as River Sewa and on the other side of that river, people take their goods to Freetown or any other part of this country through Nimiyama Chiefdom, but they are usually asked to pay for their goods. In Kenema District, nobody has ever asked those who go there to pay anything, especially in my Chiefdom. There is a market called Mondamah and **80%** of the traders from Tonkolili District go to my Constituency every Friday. They have never been taxed to pay anything. Why are they asking my people to pay for their goods? In fact, they should also pay for themselves before they enter Tonkolili District. This is very pathetic for this country. The Honourable Paramount Chief is trying to solve that problem in Tonkolili, but the problems remain the same as it is in Kono District. I want this House to look into it and take it up with the authorities concerned. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** I now ask the Chairman of the Internal Affairs Committee to investigate that particular claim. I have not told you to respond, Honourable Member. Inspector General of Police is expected to appear before your Committee and you have to put all these claims to him and include the conclusions in your report to this House. This is very serious and we do not know the Police to be collectors of revenue. Mr Chairman of the Internal Affairs Committee, please ensure that this particular issue is investigated and the conclusion arrived at is included in your report for the attention of this House. I thank you very much.

**HON. SAA E. LAMINA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am not reacting to innuendoes or insinuations. I have learnt, as public servant many years ago that what makes one an effective and efficient Leader is to use little resources to do big things. Those who understood my press statement will agree with me that I made it abundantly clear that the money was for office rental. The words I used in that press release are simple, but maybe only few Members of Parliament could have understood clearly. I did say the money was for office rental.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any announcement?

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**HON. UMAR PARAN TARAWALLY [*Clerk of Parliament*]:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Parliament as an Institution is now taking security very important. This is why certain security measures have been put in place for Members of Parliament to cooperate in order to bring this to reality. The implementation of robust security measures will start on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2019. One of the measures is that visitors will no longer access Parliament if they do not have anything to do here [*Applause*]. We are planning to erect a makeshift waiting centre at the checkpoint, where visitors are interrogated and properly screened before they are granted access. The person the visitor will be visiting must give clearance before issued a visitor's tag [*Applause*].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the second point is that the Members Lounge is completely out of bound to every other person except Members of Parliament. Staff are not allowed to sit there for any reason. The Members' Lounge belongs to Members of Parliament alone. Thus, I want to implore Members of Parliament to ensure that you talk to your visitor outside the Members' Lounge. I am doing this as a way of restoring Members' confidentiality and privacy. Sometimes Members would want to discuss certain issues in private, but the incessant entering of even unauthorised visitors could sway their attention. Some of the visitors usually take wrong or sensitive news to the public. So, no visitor will henceforth be allowed to access the Members Lounge.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the third issue I want to inform this House is that we are going to build a Members' canteen *[Applause]*. The construction of that canteen will start in March for Members of Parliament only. If a person is not invited by a Member of Parliament, he/she has nothing to do there. If you are not invited, you have no business there.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other announcement has to do with Parliamentary sittings. I want to announce here that effective 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2019 Parliament is moving its sittings to Bank Complex, at Kingtom. We want to expand this Well and give it a facelift *[Applause]*. We want Members of Parliament to debate in a conducive environment. We have just received seven containers [40ft apiece] of furniture and other office gadgets from the Chinese Government and we are going to refurbish the entire Chamber and the galleries. We are going to replace the carpet, chairs, microphones and expand the Chamber. This means Mr Speaker will no longer use this route to enter the Chamber. We are going to create a route around this end. In essence, the Speaker will be using that route to access the Chamber.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, from the 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 we will be holding all sittings at the Bank Complex, but we will still continue to use our offices after sitting and Committee meeting will take place here. We are going to refurbish and install furniture in most of the offices. We are going to refurbish Committee Room One [1] and other Committee rooms. The refurbishment is expected to complete in April and State Opening will take place here. I thank you for listening *[Applause]*.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*[The House rose at 12.55 p.m. and was adjourned to Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.]*