



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

SECOND SESSION - FIRST MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 19TH JUNE, 2019

SESSION – 2019/2020



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMEN TARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Wednesday, 19th June, 2019.

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LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS-HON SIDIE M. TUNIS : REVOCATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

PURSUANT TO SECTION 29[13] OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE ACT NO.6 OF 1991. I MOVE THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE REVOKE THE DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY REGARDING RAPE AND SEXUAL VILENCE MADE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHED IN SIERRA LEONE GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY VOL. CXLX. NO. 24 DATED 19TH FEBRUARY, 2019 AND RATIFIED BY THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE ON FRIDAY 22ND FEBRUARY, 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 SECOND REPORT OF THE SECOND 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

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

Wednesday, 19th June, 2019.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 10:22a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

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

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S. O. 5[2]

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON FRIDAY, 31ST MAY, 2019.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Welcome to all of you Honourable Members of Parliament. Honourable Members, we shall now consider the Votes and Proceedings for the 7th sitting, held on Friday the 31st May, 2019. As is our usual practice we shall skip pages 1 through to 4 which contain the names and designations of Members of Parliament and we start from page 5? Any comment or observation? Page 6? Page 7?

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Yes Mr Speaker. Page 8 under announcement is March 7, 2018 not March 7, 2019

THE SPEAKER: Sorry, will you kindly refer me to the paragraph.

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Under announcements by the Clerk of Parliament, second to the last line of that paragraph. In March 7, 2019, it should be 7th March, 2018 that the General Election was held in this country. Page 8.

THE SPEAKER: I was on page 7. You are running faster than me.

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Okay.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, page 8? What is your correction or observation again?

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: The second highest vote on the 9th constituencies in 7th March, 2019 General Elections., it should be 7th March, 2018 General Elections.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you that is correct, point taken. Clerks please take note of the correction. Page 8? Yes.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Page 8, No.9

THE SPEAKER: No. 9

HON. LAHAI MARAH: I am seeing amendment of Order Paper and the amendment leads us to Page 10; swearing of new Members of Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, I do not believe this is done in accordance with the laws of this land and if you look at the Election Petitions Act, Section 146, it is clearly stated and there is also a rule for appeal.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA [*Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. I want to know where we are now.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Can you state your Order?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Point of Order 34.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: 34 what?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Read 34[1] and 34[2]

HON. LAHAI MARAH: No, you have to start your Point of Order

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I said Point of Order and you are not Mr Speaker my friend.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: You are asking me to yield. You have to state your Order.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I am talking to Mr Speaker and not you.

THE SPEAKER: I am at a lost Honourable Members. Sometimes it is better to wait until the Honourable Member has finished making his point for us to appreciate what he is saying before you come up with your Point of Order, but when you try to introduce a Point of Order midstream, I am at a loss; I do not know which one now. Let us allow him to finish.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Thank you so much Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Here we are.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Finish, that one too Mr Speaker

THE SPEAKER: I have asked for comments, observations and amendments to the Votes and Proceedings.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: There you are Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: It is in relation to that he asked for the Floor. So allow him.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Deputy Leader of Government Business, I am making a reference to the Votes and Proceedings.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS [Chief Whip]: Mr Speaker, I think you have ruled so the Honourable Member has no right to address the Deputy Leader. Let him go ahead.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: I do have the right to address the Deputy Leader.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: You address Mr Speaker and not the Deputy Leader. Thank you.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Can you show me the rule?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Lahai Marah, you have my ears

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Lahai Marah you have my ears, but not for very much longer if you continue arguing with the Member from the opposite end.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, with reference to No.10 on the Votes and Proceedings,

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: We have something that we found this morning on our table titled: "The Fifth Parliament; announcement by Mr Clerk". I tried to read it in detail and I read it several times and I realised in this particular notice submitted, there is nowhere the Clerk stated that we rely on this rule, it is not there. Mr Speaker, this is a House of law and we cannot just be doing things because we feel we have the powers today, we can use the Police or the Military. It is very important Mr Speaker
[Interruption]

THE SPEAKER: Are you making a speech or you are drawing attention

HON. LAHAI MARAH: I am making my case.

THE SPEAKER: No! Then refer specifically to the Votes and Proceedings.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Therefore Mr Speaker, I want to say categorically here that this particular aspect in the Votes and Proceedings should be expunged and these Members should not be with us in this Well, they are not Honourable Members yet *[Applause]*. They do not have the right Mr Speaker.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, the Leader is standing.

THE SPEAKER: Have you finished Honourable Member?

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, I yield for the Chief Whip to continue.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: What do you understand by Chief Whip?

THE SPEAKER: So your observation is now a dual one.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Yes!

THE SPEAKER: You start and the other one ends it.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Of course Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I see, this is a new procedure.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: They are illegals Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: No, can you refer me please, maybe I am missing something. You starting something and then somebody is ending it.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, it is just like making my statement and our Leader on our side decides to intervene, I have to yield for him to intervene.

THE SPEAKER: Are you yielding to him.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Yes Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Fine, in that case I will not entertain any further observation from you.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: We are still on *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: You have yielded to your Leader, you have your seat. Now let me listen to the Leader.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: He has made a succinct point which to us is a matter of public concern and we think that it is not enough for him alone to discuss the issue without reference to equally concerned Members of this side and this explains why the Chief Whip has been given authority by me *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Latif Order *[Undertone]* no, I will name you a second time if you continue.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Mr Speaker, what I want to say here is that Honourable Marah has made a very succinct point that is of great concern to us on this side of the House and has also given authority to the Chief Whip to continue from where he stopped. You are right to say he cannot continue, but of course definitely, our Chief Whip can continue. Thank you Sir *[Applause]*.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. I do not understand the nomenclature 'Chief Whip' what are you talking about? It is a new opposition? What we know is that we have the majority number here. We have the Chief Whip, how can you be talking about Chief Whip. Mr Speaker, we need clarification on that we know your intention.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: When did you begin to talk about Majority?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: We know your intentions *[Undertone]*.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I think you are the Speaker of this House, we need a clarification. I want to know how many Chief Whips you have in your Parliament. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I think we are about to start on a very wrong footing. Before this proceeding will continue I want absolute decorum. You have been

most un-parliamentary this morning. All those who have echoed voices have been most un-parliamentary. Now, let me be very clear, Honourable Marah you stood on a Point of Order [*Undertone*]. Honourable Marah, you do not have the Floor.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, he has been interrupted.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, take your seat please [*Undertone*]. Order! Unless there is decorum, much as I am prepared to allow undertones, overtones are not allowed. Undertones must not become overtones. Mr Leader of the Opposition,

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: We seem to want to start today's proceedings on a wrong footing. I really do hope I am wrong in my observation, but from what I see, we seem to want to start from a wrong footing. I now seek your indulgence to please bring your own side of the House to order.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Very well Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Lest I be forced to use my authority to maintain order.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Mr Speaker, from my observation, there appears to be some altercation between some Members from our side and Members on the other side and I saw no difficulty in that. Mr Speaker to conclude that I must put my own side under control will suspect that we are at fault, but we are not at fault at all, it was an argument between Members of Parliament from this side and that side and we think that it is a common practice Mr Speaker and I do not take the responsibility of putting my side under control because I do not think they have committed any offense so far. Thank you Mr Speaker [*Applause*].

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Hassan

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Yes Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You have the Floor

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Thank you Mr Speaker

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Hassan, you have the Floor in place of the Honourable Lahai Marah and I hope while you have the Floor; there will be no further interference from Honourable Lahai Marah.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: No Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: I assure you of that Sir. Thank you Mr Speaker for given me the Floor in place of Honourable Lahai Marah. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like the issue we have in front of us which the Honourable Marah addressed. Mr Speaker, I will borrow a leaf out of your book in my intervention, you have always told us in this Well as long as you are in this House you will maintain the sanctity of this House *[Applause]*. Mr Speaker, I believe that maintaining sanctity of this House...
[Interruption]

THE SPEAKER: The sanctity of the law,

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Thank you. All the better Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Go ahead.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: If we are to maintain the sanctity of the law, Mr Speaker on this issue that is now under discussion. The Public Election Act, 2012 Section 146 Sub-Section 1, 2 and 3 adequately address the issue that the Honourable Marah was raising here in the Well. Now what is it Mr Speaker? It is clearly stated that in the event of any decision reached in the Court of Law regarding petition cases or annulment of election results, those seats should remain vacant for fourteen days and that is in the law. Mr Speaker, I do not think asking for fourteen days is too much if a ruling is past in the court.

THE SPEAKER: Let us not prolong,

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: I think I am in mid-flight.

THE SPEAKER: I am coming; do you have a copy of the Act in front of you?

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Sure Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I will now allow you to read to the House the relevant provisions.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: The Public Election Act, 2012, Section 146 Sub-Section 1, with your leave Mr Speaker I read; *"If the High Court determine that a candidate return as elected was not duly elected and that the election was void then the candidate's seat shall become vacant from the time of the notice of decision of the High Court and if notice of appeal from that decision has been given within fourteen days the seat shall remain vacant for the period until the determination of the Court of Appeal is giving in the appeal or the appeal is abandoned."* Also Mr Speaker, it says; *"Where the question to be decided by the Court of Appeal concerns an election to or the right to remain a Member of Parliament, the Registrar of the Court of Appeal shall certify the decision in writing to the Speaker and the Electoral Commission."* Mr Speaker, if as I speak notice has been given by the Court of Appeal that there are receipts of the appeal...
[Interruption]

THE SPEAKER: Will you kindly take your time and read Sub-Section 2 for me again?

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker I will. Mr Speaker Sub-Section 2, *"where the question to be decided by the Court of Appeal"* and we are not there yet, *"concern an election to or the right to remain a Member of Parliament..."* *[Interruption]*

The SPEAKER: Hold on, Honourable Lahai Marah, you know you are one of my favourite Members of Parliament, but please I want you to allow your Whip who has taken over from you to proceed with his presentation. I have eyes to see and ears to hear. Carry on please, start again Sub-Section 2, read it aloud.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Thank you Mr Speaker. *"Where the question to be decided by the Court of Appeal concerns an election to or the right to remain a Member of Parliament; the Registrar of the Court of Appeal shall certify the register of the Court of Appeal."* I am still very much insistent on the Court of Appeal act part of it because we are not at the Court of Appeal yet Mr Speaker and let me inform Mr Speaker and all of the Members *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: I have to rule you out of order, will you please read from start to finish Sub-Section 2 without your comments on it.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Thank you Mr Speaker. Section 2 *"Where the question to be decided by the Court of Appeal concerns an election to or the right to remain a Member of Parliament, the Registrar of the Court of Appeal shall certify the decision in writing to the Speaker and the Electoral Commission."* Mr Speaker, having said that I also want to inform this House that as at yesterday, the Court of Appeal have contacted the legal team, concerning the affected Members of Parliament the court have acknowledged receipt of their appeal and that the fees that is to be paid will be paid to ensure that the cases are heard and Mr Speaker, you are one of the most brilliant constitutional Lawyers I know and knowing fully well that you are such a brilliant Lawyer, Mr Speaker, these ones are basic, I am not a Lawyer, but this language we can understand and interpret it because we all went to school. In that respect Mr Speaker, if the matters are still in court waiting to be heard by the Court of Appeals, I think I do not know if I am right, but I think that is what you call sub judice, that they are still under court consideration.

THE SPEAKER: I really was going to caution that it will be most unwise for any one of us to comment on matters that are still sub judice.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: And in the process, the people who are here now must not be here until the cases are concluded in the court, that is my point that is my point Mr Speaker *[Applause]*. Mr Speaker, except if I am told or I want to be made to understand that these cases have already been decided even before the Court of Appeal seat on them, but if that is the case then it means that we still do not have a judgement, we are waiting for the submission of the Court of Appeals *[Applause]* I think that is the case Mr Speaker and for that reason, I do not believe that those people who are here., *[undertone]* we cannot stop them. Mr Speaker, fourteen days and I do not think we are asking for too much in this matter Mr Speaker.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker,

THE SPEAKER: Please allow me, have you finished?

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: So that is my point Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: That is your point, take your seat.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I have sent for my Clerk [*Undertone*] Order! I am going to address the Clerk by way of a question and I want the House to listen very carefully, you made reference to Section 146 Sub-Section 1 and 2; well we have not gone that far yet with respect, let us take it step by step. You have read Sub-Section 1 of Section 146, I grant you that. You have gone further and read Sub-Section 2 [*Undertone*] no wait a minute, take it step by step and I am sure you will recall when you read Sub-Section 2. There is explicit reference there to a certificate that should be served on Mr Speaker, that certificate is what I want now to verify. Mr Clerk, have you received any certificate more specifically from the Registrar of the Court of Appeal to the effect that an appeal is pending on matters relating to those covered by Section 146 [1] of the Act?

HON. PARAN U. TARAWALLY [*The Clerk of Parliament*]: Mr Speaker, no such certificate has been received [*Applause*].

THE SPEAKER: Do you still want to proceed?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: No, I want to proceed

THE SPEAKER: You do not have the Floor Daniel.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: No, I am asking that I have the Floor.

THE SPEAKER: I am not going to grant you the Floor, you wait.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I will wait.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Whip of the Opposition, do you still want to proceed? You have heard in response to my question from the Clerk that no certificate has been received from the Registrar of the Court of Appeal to the effect that there is pending before that court an appeal.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Agreed Mr Speaker, but may I ask a question Mr Speaker?

THE SPEAKER: Provided it is a question that aims at elucidating this issue.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Yes Mr Speaker, we are talking about this issue and nothing more, nothing less.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, go ahead.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: The question is what about the fourteen days?

THE SPEAKER: No, the fourteen days has nothing to do with Mr Speaker.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker, everybody in the court of law even if I am an illiterate man I know I have the right to appeal in any issue and if fourteen days are prescribe by the Constitution which is what we use here, Mr Speaker, let us do not be law breakers because we are law makers *[Applause]*. Mr Speaker, this is not for us today sitting here, let us make laws that will stand the test of time, not laws made for our purposes. Mr Speaker, I have heard comments and we do not want to call this Majority another name, let us go by the rules and when it is done we will all move on smoothly.

THE SPEAKER: You have made your point.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Let us make our point.

THE SPEAKER: We are going by the law and we are going by the rules.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Please Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Take your seat now, we are going by the law and we are going by the rules *[Undertone]* no, as Speaker, my Clerk has just confirmed to me that we have received no certificate under Section 146 Sub-Section 2 of the Public Elections Act 2012. Since there have been none and that is not in fact the only matter that I would have averted my mind to, I just want to shorten particular issues because as I indicated earlier and I warn again and I will refer you to S.O 32[6] if you say the matter is pending in court read S.O 32[6] for me. *"Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending."* No, you cannot I am still addressing the Whip;

you people had abdicated your right and granted it to your Whip and I am going to listen to the Whip. The Leader of the Opposition said to me that on this particular issue everybody will pay deference to what you have to say, so I will listen to you.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker, here is the saying that reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending.

THE SPEAKER: You are saying that there is an appeal, now I am not aware of that appeal no, I am not because Sub-Section 2 makes it abundantly clear, there has to be a certificate addressed to me, I have not received any certificate to that effect.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker, if I can understand you adequately, the matter is the ruling which has been made *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: No, in your submission Honourable Member, you told this House that there is an appeal pending and that is why you are invoking the fourteen days.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: No, not because of the appeal Mr Speaker, the Constitution is very clear about the fourteen days when a seat becomes vacant. Mr Speaker, it is clear, why do we have to go about and call for them, it is clear in the Constitution and the Act.

THE SPEAKER: You know something; do not tell me what I know.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker, I am not trying to tell you what you know.

THE SPEAKER: Let me advice you, when you read any provision, be careful to understand what you are reading.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, may I be heard?

THE SPEAKER: A simple question I am asking, is there a pending appeal?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, for better explanation... *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: I have not given you the Floor. In your submission you gave an indication there was a pending appeal.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: There is, yes.

THE SPEAKER: Will you rise and answer that question?

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Yes Mr Speaker, we have already put in the appeal.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you and read Sub-Section 2 of your Section 146. I have not received any certificate.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: You have not received that one Mr Speaker, I agree with you and I cannot question what you are saying, but what about the fourteen days rule?

THE SPEAKER: I am sorry, I am going to proceed.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Mr Speaker?

THE SPEAKER: Yes Mr Leader, I will give you preference.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: When I requested that part of the presentation of Honourable Lahai Marah and continued by Honourable Hassan A. Sesay, it was not to totally hand over the debate to Honourable Hassan A. Sesay because there are other Members who are also interested in continuing the debate.

THE SPEAKER: Order! I want to be in a position to hear what the Honourable Member is saying please.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: When you seem to suggest that I ceded over the debate to Honourable Hassan A. Sesay from Honourable Lahai Marah, I think you got it slightly wrong Mr Speaker. I merely stated that once Honourable Marah wanted Honourable Hassan A. Sesay to continue the debate he would be at liberty to do so as Leader of this part of the House and this is what has been happening. But Mr Speaker one point that is very clear and that is one point we will not compromise and that is there is a process that is going on to address the issue of the affected Members of Parliament and once that process goes on, we think that this House must take that into consideration as well. What we do not want to see happen is to make sure that we create a scenario that seem to suggest that even the appeal of these affected Members of Parliament have also been seriously affected because if we have now allowed people to occupy their seats then the question is how can these affected Members of

Parliament ask for their own appeal when in fact their seats have already been occupied.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS [*Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, may I come in please?

THE SPEAKER: Yes you may.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Parliament receives the ruling from the High Court and as far as I know by law the affected parties have the right to appeal and Parliament also had the obligations under the law to do what they had to do and I can tell you for sure that Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the question of the current Members of Parliament occupying the seats of those Members of Parliament... [*Interruption*]

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I think something is happening in this House that if you do not control it properly it will get out of hands. When their Leader is speaking we keep quiet on this side, but when our own Leader is speaking they start giving overtones or undertones, I think it is wrong and you have to control that very seriously.

THE SPEAKER: Really Chief Whip, you are also adding to it.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: I am bringing up a point.

THE SPEAKER: Allow the Leader to continue.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: I am only asking that they should allow our own Leader to speak and when their own Leader is speaking we keep quiet, it is wrong on our own side and that is what you have to address Mr Speaker.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker,

THE SPEAKER: Leader of Government Business, you have the Floor.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I can understand the anxiety on our colleagues clearly, yes I will not say frustration because they know the law, but I just want to assure my Honourable colleague on the other side Mr Speaker,

that Parliament had to do what they did under the law that is number one, secondly, I want to encourage my colleagues on the other side as law makers that if you definitely feel aggrieved, my appeal is to go through the process, you have the right to go through the appeal process and continue with the appeal process. I can assure you as Leader of this House that the day we received a ruling from the Court of Appeal to say that these Honourable Members have the right to stay in this House, they will be back to their seats. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I will bring this particular matter to a close; I will entertain no further discussion on this matter. Order! I will entertain no further discussion on this matter. Let me make one thing clear, I think I have been over indulgent, take your seats Honourable Members, whether you accept or not Honourable Daniel Koroma, take your seat; I am asking you to take your seat *[undertone]*. I have not given you the right to speak. Let me make one thing absolutely clear. Honourable Member you continue to stand and I have asked you to take your seat.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, there are rules in this House.

THE SPEAKER: There are rules that govern.

HON. ALPHA A. BAH: You are here to ensure that the process is facilitated legally, impartially and objectively Mr Speaker. Let me be heard Mr Speaker because I have the right to be heard. I want to draw your attention to Section 146 Sub-Section 1 *[Interruption]*

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: No way. Mr Speaker, you will not allow him to be heard.

HON. ALPHA M. BAH: I must be heard Mr Speaker and I do not mind you sending me out. I am an elected Member of Parliament Mr Speaker and I am not here on anybody's invitation. Posterity will judge that I stood here on a particular day to make my submission, the Speaker without any consideration for the people's views sent me out of this House, but I have the right to be heard.

HON. MOHAMED B. SHAW: You are not portraying anything more than being a lawless Lawyer.

THE SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition please, I want to address you on this issue directly [*undertone*]. Order! Mr Leader of the Opposition, I now feel compelled to address you specifically on this issue. What is happening in the Galleries? You are strangers here; you are supposed to be seen and not to be heard. If I hear any more noise from the Galleries, I will ask the Galleries to be cleared. Honourable Leader of the Opposition, I really have been over indulgent, all in the interest of our democratic process, but let me remind you, when I say I have been over indulgent that is to even allow comments, observations or what have you on the Votes and Proceedings especially from Members who were not present when we were proceeding in this House, the outcome of which is the Votes and Proceedings before us. So please those who have the right are those who participated in the last discussion, those I am prepared to hear, but in the interest of our democratic process I have been over indulgent to the extent of allowing your Members to speak on this issue.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Mr Speaker that is exactly why we are not walking out of Parliament again [*Applause*].

THE SPEAKER: I am very pleased to hear that because walkout do not win election and walkout do not win anything for you. So, now you know the consequences of walking out, now you know the consequence of walking out. Walkouts do not win anything, I have been over indulgent through by way of walkout, you are not supposed to be participating in the discussion. We will continue with the Votes and Proceedings. I want to hear the Leader of the Opposition land. I can hear you [*undertone*]. Order! Let me hear the Leader of the Opposition.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Let us allow the Members of Parliament to have their say. This is democracy Mr Speaker after that you rule.

THE SPEAKER: Have I not been allowing them? There is indeed pandemonium the House.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Mr Speaker allow them and then you can make a ruling.

HON. DR MARK M. KALOKOH: Exactly Mr Speaker.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

THE SPEAKER: That is the area of indulgence that you do not seem to appreciate. I opt not to entertain any observations from your side.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Mr Speaker, I think it better.

THE SPEAKER: That is better, I can hear you now.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: I am just pleading that you allow three of my men to have their say after which you can make a ruling Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Three of your people?

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Yes

THE SPEAKER: Who are they?

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Honourable Daniel Koroma, Honourable Amadu and Honourable Alpha A. Bah.

THE SPEAKER: The last I will not, he has been absolutely disobedient, I will not. Take your sit, I told him several time.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: But Mr Speaker, he says you come from the same town

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader, I will send that particular Member out if he continue to misbehave. Would you take your sit please Honourable Member? I am referring to you with the red hat.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Mr Speaker, who is the Honourable with the red hat? Mr Speaker, so we have three of them.

THE SPEAKER: That particular one knows himself.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Can we start Mr Speaker?

THE SPEAKER: I will allow Daniel

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: And after that two more Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: No, one more and not that particular one. Honourable Daniel Koroma let me hear you.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Thank you. Mr Speaker for the attention of the public.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

THE SPEAKER: You are addressing the House and not the public. You can go out there and address the public if you want to. Are you addressing me or the public?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I am addressing Mr Speaker Sir.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Point of Order Sir. I am standing on S.O 42 and I am bringing something to your attention Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker S.O 42 is saying: "The decision of the Speaker is final." Now you have ruled on this particular debate and you are now allowing the Opposition to take part, in case anytime you rule on us and we refused to take your order, I hope we will not be held responsible.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Mr Speaker, this part of the House will always continue to be courteous to you and that is the most I can say. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Daniel Koroma, you have the Floor.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker Point of Order. Mr Speaker, I want to draw your attention to the fact that Members of Parliament have camera in the Well.

THE SPEAKER: Who?

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Honourable Abdul Latif Sesay and we do not know what he is videoing because the fact is... *[Interruption]*

HON. ABDUL L. SESAY: That is my personal camera.

THE SPEAKER: You are not allowed to use your camera in the House. Honourable Latif handover that camera please? Sergeant-at-Arms collect that camera for me no collect it from him. The order is handover your camera.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: He is not the Sargent-at-Arm.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Latif?

HON. ABDUL L. SESAY: Yes Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: My order to you was to handover that camera to the Sergeant-at-Arms.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Who is the Sargent-at-Arm? He is not even supposed to be here [*Undertone*].

THE SPEAKER: If you do not do so, I will refer this matter to the Committee of Privileges.

HON. ABDUL L. SESAY: Mr Speaker, I have private things in my camera and I do not have the trust to give my camera to any person. If you ask me to give it to you I will, but not to any other person Mr Speaker.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, let us stop assuming, Honourable Marah is misbehaving. You are big enough to know that your behaviour is not right in the proceedings of Parliament [*Interruption*].

THE SPEAKER: Handover the camera to the Sergeant At-Arm.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker if Honourable Latif's Camera is a problem to this House, I believe other phones are to be confiscated as well because people have used their phones indiscriminately to take pictures in this Well. If Honourable Latif camera is to be confiscated it has to be replicated to all those who have used their phone similarly.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Do not insult me, I do not talk to you.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: The Honourable Latif camera is not a problem. The Leadership of the APC should control Lahai Marah [*Undertone*].

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, we want to proceed with Government Business Sir.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Honourable Marah, you have bitten more that you can chew. I am a Member of this Parliament so please sit down. You are not the only one here.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: The man is not a Sergeant At-Arm

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: If the APC Leadership cannot control you then I will control you. Have your sit.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, I am saying if there is any reason why Honourable Latif's phone is be confiscated, other phones are to be confiscated as well. I am here when people were using their phone.

THE SPEAKER: Order! All Honourable Members take your seats.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, we want to see you acting; you are the presiding officer in this Chamber. We cannot allow them to undermine your authority in this Chambers, it is forbidding Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, take your seats. I have not given the Floor to anybody. Honourable Members, take your seats. It will sadden me greatly to have course to refer Honourable Members to the Committee of Privileges. If you force me I will do so, believe me I will and you know the consequences. I am warning you for the last time. If any person forces me to that I will do it and you know the consequences. You can shout to high heavens believe me, I will carry out my functions. I am warning for the last time, I will be very tolerant now, but if you force me to begin to assert the authority of this House and if I use it, the consequences will be for you to either accept or regret, I mean it. We have orders in this House; you have S.O's in this House read them carefully. Let me remind you in case some of you do not know if I send you to the Committee of Privileges and the result comes from that Committee making certain recommendations and if one of those recommendations is that I suspend you for the rest of the session, I shall do so and when you are absent for thirty sitting days, you know the meaning of that. Your seat will be declared vacant, is that what you want? I am reminding you now so that you will not say either to the Leaders or to myself that you did not know the consequences. I am spelling out the consequences for you now; you can be thrown out of this House for the rest of the session, is that what you want?

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, can we please move on with the business of the House? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I have given the last warning and I mean it. I will invite the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of Government Business to come forward.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, can we please move ahead with the business of the House please?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, we on this side want to observe something. We do not intend to bring this House into dispute; we do not intend to make you feel sad. I remember my colleagues from the other side in their press statement from the House signed by Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, they praised you, they respected you, apart from you being Mr Speaker, you are our elder, you are a state-man, we can understand the situation you are facing, people telling our Speaker that he is a liar is forbidden to use that word in the Chambers that is not undertone, but Mr Speaker, for the business of the House to continue, we want our nominee to go for executive appointment and he has to travel today. We can handle your decisions raised by the Chief Whip quoted in S.O 42. We said we can deal with that one later as said by the Honourable Leader; let us continue because I raised it. We are on Vote and Proceedings; let us continue with the business of the House Mr Speaker. We are not going to allow people to distract us from the business of the House. We apologise for any miss-happening here and I will continue to apologise irrespective of you being the Speaker, we apologise for what has transpired here this morning. Thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Latif, I am asking you for the last time, where is that camera?

HON. ABDUL L. SESAY: Here it is Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I have had consultations with the Leader of Government Business and the Leader of the Opposition; both of them know what I have said to them. I rely on them to pass my message on to their respective Members. I foresee problems ahead of

us, but I can assure you that out of my experience, I am accustomed to seeing such problems and I am equally accustomed to dealing with such problems [Applause] and I will not hesitate. Honourable Members you have only seen the finer side of me you have seen not seen the ugly side. If you tempt me, I will show you the uglier side of me. So, I warn for the last times, do not tempt me. We shall proceed. Honourable, I will allow you and because of the time we have wasted, I will allow only you to speak on the matter before us now [undertones] no, I will stop him when he want to exceed do not worry about that. Votes and Proceedings that he did not take part in [undertone].

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, I will not comment on that. All I know is item 8 of the Record of Votes and Proceedings regarding the Members of Parliament that were sworn in illegally contrary to Section 146 Sub-Section 1 and Mr Speaker, I will read that one slowly and clearly; Sub-Section 1 of Section 146 of the Public Election Act, 2012. You can use the microphone Sir.

THE SPEAKER: I am well aware of the content of that provision, go ahead.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: And as people's representative, the people I represent here need to be aware and some of us here do not know including our constituents and we are here to inform them. Mr Speaker with your leave, I read Sub-Section 1 of Section 146 of the Public Election Act, 2012. Its reads, *"If the High Court determines that a candidate returned as elected was not dully elected and that the election was void, then the candidate's seats shall become vacant from the time of the notice of decision of the High Court and if notice of appeal from that decision has been given within fourteen days, the seat shall remain vacant for the period until the determination of the Court of Appeal is giving or the appeal is abandon."* Now, let me show you clear understanding of this relevant provision, in the first place when the decision of the High Court is given that Mr A who has been elected was not dully elected, no sooner that decision is giving, that seat becomes vacant [Applause]. Proper explanations now and then from that moment let us say today 19th June, 2019, the decision is giving and that individual is not dully elected, sooner that seat becomes vacant from that date, this relevant provision is saying that the affected parties have two options by ways of

remedies; the first remedy is to appeal and the second remedy is to abandon the appeal, two options you are free to take any of the two. This Section is saying if you choose the first option to appeal no sooner you choose the first option to appeal, you are bound to serve notice of appeal within fourteen days whether is the first or the last day it those it does not matter, but before expression of fourteen days you should serve notice of appeal. This relevant provision is saying no sooner you serve that notice of appeal, the seat remain, meaning it has been vacant before and then it should remain vacant upon service of the notice *[Applause]*. It say it should 'remain vacant' and I want to inform this House that those notices on behalf of the ten elected Members of Parliament on the APC side have been served.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker Point of Order

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: The notices are being filed. Mr Speaker please

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, it is good for me to raise this Order please Mr Speaker with your leave. Mr Speaker, I beg.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker on this note, what we are saying is that the notices of appeal have been filed and as long as those notices have been filed within fourteen days the seats must remain vacant. So in effect, even the swearing in of those Members of Parliament on the very day the decision was taken without waiting for the fourteen days was illegal in the first place *[Applause]* and in facts, it is an affront to the dignity of the court. I see it as an affront to the dignity of the Superior Court of Judicature because as far as the law is concern, both parties need to wait for the fourteen days whether you appeal or you do not appeal. If you do not appeal then you go by abandonment of the appeal, now you were making reference to Sub-Section 2 of Section 146 it is in reference to the exercise of the first option, that is if you appeal, no sooner you appeal the Court of Appeal receives the appeal that it is incumbent on the Court of Appeal to serve Parliament not during notice of appeal. During the notice of appeal the seat becomes vacant and that is our position. When the notice is being heard and then Court of Appeal decides to seat on it, the matters are assigned, but for

now the Court of Appeal cannot serve notice to Parliament when the matters have not been assigned in the first place to any specific court in the Court of Appeal.

THE SPEAKER: So, can you land now?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: The Court of Appeal must be constituted and it should be assigned, but as it is now those matters have not been assigned. So, if there is any so-called notice of appeal it is illegal because there is no Court of Appeal that has the mandate at this time to serve.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, have you landed now?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: On that note, we are saying that the relevant provision of Section 146 Sub-Section 1 has not been complied with and therefore we are insisting that we respect this relevant provision that the seat remain vacant until we receive notice from the Court of Appeal, but the notices have been filed to the Court of Appeal and as long as the notices have been filed, the seats ought to remain vacant. That is our position Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Take your seat. I thank the Honourable Member for his very erudite exposition of the law. Now, the same decorum you enjoyed in exposing that aspect for your understanding of the law, allow me the same decorum to respond to you. My response is very straightforward and very simple and I do so with great trepidation because as you said and not only you, but I believe the Honourable Hassan also repeated that you have already filed appeals, which means the matters are pending before the court and therefore it will be unwise for me or anybody in accordance with S.O 32[6] to express ourselves on matters that are pending, that are sub judice. Be that as it may and since that is the grey man of your own position, let me now respond to you that with the greatest respect, Section 146 does not apply in this particular case and let me explain to you why. Section 146 envisages the situation where there is an appeal, where there is a petition against a Member of Parliament and there is a court ruling which brings about the creation of a vacancy in the seat of the person petitioned against, if that was the only thing the court did, then I agree with you Honourable

Koroma that Section 146 does apply, but let me put it to you that the court went further than that. The court did not only say the seat was vacant, but the court went further to declare as a nullity the votes cast for the people petitioned against and went further to direct that X, Y and Z should now occupy those seats *[Applause]*. They named in the orders that were served on this House, the persons who ought to have occupied those seats ab-initio and we complied with the orders of the court *[Applause]* and that is the ruling of this Parliament. If you are aggrieved, you know what to do; go back to court and seek redress for your grievances. That is my ruling! We shall proceed *[Applause]*. Page 8? Page 9? Can somebody please move?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I move that the Votes and Proceedings be adopted by the House.

THE SPEAKER: Any Seconder?

HON. JOSEPH J. WILLIAMS: I so second Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for Friday 31st May, 2019 has been adopted]

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Point of Order Mr Speaker! Mr Speaker, Point of Order!

THE SPEAKER: What is your Order?

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker 79.

THE SPEAKER: Yes 79, strangers.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, 79 talks about strangers. Mr Speaker, strangers are being define in 79 and when you go also to Standing Order 19, it also defined strangers. Mr Speaker, we on this side still believe the nine Members of Parliament that were sworn in... *[Interruption]*

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, we need edification on 79.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I rule you out of Order.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: 79 has absolutely no application in this case. Shall we proceed with the business of the House?

III. REVOCATION OF THE PUBLIC STATE OF EMERGENCY

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable members

HON. HASSAN SESAY: Point of Order Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: A Point of Order on what?

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: On the Issue just announced by the Clerk, 34. Mr Speaker, I do not know if I am right, but I think from your last announcement that we had here relating to the State of Emergency, it was not conclusive, so I do not know what we are revoking now.

THE SPEAKER: I would allow the Leader of Government Business to proceed.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that pursuant to Section 29[13] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No.6 of 1991, I move that this Honourable House revoke the declaration of a State of Emergency regarding Rape and Sexual Violence made by His excellency the President and published in the Sierra Leone Gazette extraordinary volume CXLX No.24 dated 19th February 2019. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when this country started experiencing an increase in rape and sexual violence, His Excellency the President in his wisdom thought it fit to proclaim a State of Public Emergency with regards to sexual violence as a way of curbing its occurrences and also to show to the world that this country was serious about fighting this menace. This was considered necessary as the Sexual Offences Act of 2012 did not make adequate penalties against perpetrators. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Clerk's Office of this noble House is now in possession of the Sexual Offences Amendment Act, 2019 and that will be brought before this House for consideration on our next sitting, meaning that the Proclamation of His Excellency the President could be addressed by that amendment and the State of Emergency would not be necessary. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I therefore move that pursuant to Section 29[13] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No.6 of

1991, I move that this Honourable House revoke the declaration of a State of Emergency regarding rape and sexual violence made by His Excellency the President and published in the Sierra Leone Gazette Extraordinary Volume CXLX No.24 dated 19th February, 2019.

THE SPEAKER: Before I ask for a seconder, I am sure the Honourable Member would want to do the needful.

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

THE SPEAKER: I now call for a seconder to the Motion that was just moved by the Leader of Government Business. Any Secunder?

HON. ABDUL T. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I so second.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Point of Order Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: What is your Order?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: My understanding of this provision, we need to speak to the revocation, we need to speak to the Motion. Of course we are not against it, but we need to speak to the Motion, we cannot just pass that, we need to speak to the Motion!

THE SPEAKER: No! I am sorry, read 29[13] properly.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The Motion moved by the Leader of Government Business for the revocation of the Public State of Emergency has been carried]

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 [Leader of Government Business]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, *[Interruption]*

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Mr Speaker Point of Order

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to first of all make a slight correction on what he is talking about.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on!

HON. HASSAN A SESAY: You do not know what I want to talk about.

THE SPEAKER: Well, that was why I have given you the Floor. He was assuming he knew. Honourable AKK,

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Welcome to your new seat. Honourable AKK, Honourable Members, I want to address Honourable AKK. Welcome to your new seat.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Very closed to the door.

THE SPEAKER: Very closed to the door indeed and it has a very pointed significance. I had moved you to a seat that is very close to the exit, it is only one removed away.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: No problem Sir.

THE SPEAKER: So I want you to be deeply conscious of that in the course of this session of Parliament.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Whatever it is.

THE SPEAKER: Thank You.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker may I be heard?

THE SPEAKER: No.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, I need to be heard.

THE SPEAKER: No. You have not caught my attention. I am giving the Floor to Hassan; he was the first to ask for it.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Before his concern Sir.

THE SPEAKER: You are not the one directing the proceedings Daniel, Please take your seat.

HON. SIDIE M TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to make a quick correction on the Order Paper. Instead of Honourable Hassan Sesay, Honourable Veronica Sesay will now be the seconder *[Applause]*.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, I am rising on S.O 46 Sir.

THE SPEAKER: On what issue?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: On the issue we just discuss Sir.

THE SPEAKER: No, I will not entertain that Order.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, I rose on S.O 32 and attention was not given to me. Unfortunately I did not catch your eyes, but Mr Speaker, it is important Sir.

THE SPEAKER: What are you rising on? Is it on the amendment he has made?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Not on the amendment Sir.

THE SPEAKER: But on what?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: On the previous State of Emergency Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Sorry, that matter is closed. Let us proceed. We have a Motion that the seconder of this Motion be changed from the Honourable Hassan Sesay to the Honourable Veronica Sesay. Any seconder to that Motion?

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

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The Motion for the change of the seconder of the Motion on the Order Paper from Honourable Hassan A. Sesay to Honourable Veronica K. Sesay has been carried]

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

PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. VERONICA K. SESAY

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that the Second Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contain therein be approved.

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service that is charged with the responsibility of vetting Presidential Nominees to select the most fitted and qualified persons to serve in public offices met on Friday 14th June, 2019 and interviewed eleven Presidential Nominees. For administrative reasons, the report is only going to present one candidate for now. The Report for the other candidates will be presented at the next adjourned date. I therefore wish to present the candidate for the following position:

[i] Minister of Planning and Economic Development [MPED].

2. Procedure

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee conducted the hearing within the ambit of its established criteria. Members perused the specified documents provided by the nominee and went further to request for public input into the vetting process to ascertain the suitability of the nominee for his proposed appointment. The Committee also ensured that the nominee was cleared of any criminal records by the Criminal Investigations Department [CID] and further assured itself that the nominee has the relevant qualifications and necessary backup experience to man such an important office of state. Probing questions put to the nominee covered wide ranging issues pertaining to his track records in other pertinent work situations, his declared assets and liabilities, fulfillment of his tax obligations to the state and his vision for a successful and nationally productive tenure.

3. Fourth Sitting of the Committee on Friday 14TH June, 2019

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

[i] Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai, Proposed Minister of Planning and Economic Development

Dr Kaikai is Sierra Leone's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York, United States of America. Dr Kaikai has over thirty years of professional and managerial experience including thirteen years with the United Nations. Dr Francis Kaikai is a household name in Sierra Leone. He is best remembered for his work in planning, implementing and coordinating the nation's post-conflict demobilization and reintegration programmes of the warring factions.

Responding to the Committee's inquiries, Dr Kaikai said he was happy that Planning and Development were merged in a bid to build a resilient economy amidst certain challenges. In response to the strides the Ministry has made on the nation's Medium Term Development Plan, 2019 to 2023, Dr Kaikai said: *"What I see now is that this plan would change the mindset for planning and economic development in the country and usher in a sense of ownership by the people. I will ensure that we take and explain the plans to all the districts and in each district; we will make sure that their implementation plans are produced. This I think will provide the basis of resource allocation, guide development partners in projects prioritizations and to promote equitable development."*

Dr Kaikai in his conclusion said; *"the challenges of bringing the nexus between development and peace to real practice hinged on all Sierra Leoneans."* He promised to approach his development agenda with total inclusivity that will provide a strong economy with adequate bread and butter for the people of this country.

4. Recommendation[s]

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential Nominee to be fit and qualified for his proposed appointment and therefore recommends to this House for his approval:

i. Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai, Minister of Planning and Economic Development.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Second Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the Second Report of the Second 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

Chairman

Dated.....

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, any seconder?

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: I Honourable Veronica Kadie Sesay, do second the Motion.

[Question Proposed]

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I start the intervention, I just want to take this special opportunity to thank you because I was not here during the Presidential Debate. I want to thank you all as a mother of the House for the brilliant debate that we had the last time, thank you and I want to thank His Excellency for his good job; your President, our President and everybody's President *[Applause]*. I know he is the man of the day, he can talk and do, he will do it over and again and all of us will benefit from it. I want to thank everybody in this House for that day because I was not present.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me just thank again His Excellency because there is a saying when you put a round peg in a square hole it will be very difficult to manage, but if you put a round peg in a round hole, I think that will be very easy and this is what exactly His Excellency has done. He has nominated, he has sent this cool and calculated well behave gentleman *[Applause]* and as we have heard from the Leader of Government Business, Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai, is a household name as

far as development is concerned. So I have no doubt and I believe you too have no doubt because if you put the right person in the right place, he will do it and the place where he is now going to occupy was occupied previously by a woman. I know we women set a pace and behind any good Government, behind any successful man there is a woman that is why the lady that was there made everything good, she planned and laid a very good foundation for this country and especially for the women, now that Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai is going there, I know he will do more because the women are not saying they will bulldoze you, but we will be side by side to help you and that is why we are always asking for **30%** quota. The lady who was there did her best and I have no doubt that you also will do us proud as you are going there because you have set an example in the United Nations and I know in planning, you will also use your expertise you have got at both national and international platforms. I have no doubt in His Excellency the President because he has a vision and anybody that he nominates, that person is over qualified to do the job he or she is signed to and I know Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai is over qualified; please go and prove your mettle, work for the benefit of this nation and especially for the interest of women and children because every adult was once a child and you should please work in the interest of the nation. People might want to say this is politics, but it is not because development is no politics, whether you are on the Opposition or the Ruling side, anything that is good for the nation, we all will enjoy despite the political party you belong to. Therefore as a mother of this House and a woman representing the women of Sierra Leone, I want to take this special opportunity to ask my colleagues to speedily approve Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai to his new office. We wish you all the best and we congratulate you in advance. Thank you very much *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Yes you should allow them. Honourable Sama, you have the Floor

HON. SHIAKA M. SAMA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I am Honourable Shiaka Musa Sama of Constituency 104, Pujehun District. Mr Speaker, I had to stop a very serious engagement in my Constituency to travel to Freetown on Sunday because I was expecting that Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai who is an elder brother to me would have

appeared before this House yesterday and I also had to stay in Freetown for this day. I want to speak about a man I have lots of confidence in and he is a very good elder brother, Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai. I have had a lot of discussions with Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai around national development. He is a man who is very passionate about development in this country, his desire was to become the Chairman of our district, but God had some other bigger plans for him which is a plan for national service. I was extremely very happy when Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai was appointed to represent us at the United Nation and I know one thing we could have missed was his frequent trips to Pujehun District. When I was in Abuja I heard about his appointment to be the Minister of Economic Planning and Development, I was extremely very happy. This is the man whom I think is the right man for this job. Mr Speaker, when we speak about New Direction, Sierra Leoneans want to see a change; a difference should be seen. Like I have always said, our country and the people of Sierra Leone have suffered a lot, we have enormous potentials for development, but ironically we remain one of the poorest countries on earth. I think the only way we can make a change is to have the right people in the right places and we have to move from the past. When we get public offices, it is not time for us to throw around our weight, it is not time for us to drive expensive cars and to just have fun in those offices. What really His Excellency the President wants is a group of men and women who can dedicate themselves to the service of this nation. Mr Speaker, one year is gone and this Government has four years to complete the initial programmes and I think Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai is one of the right people to serve in these positions. I remember I had a discussion with him about two years ago that there are a lot of opportunities in our country, we have a President that is clearly seen to be working towards progress, but he is an individual, he cannot know it all; he needs a group of men and women around him that can give him the right advice. I told Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai two days ago that His Excellency needs a 'think tank'; he needs a group of men and women that can be advising him on policy, implementation etc. I have been lucky to have had some very close contact with Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai, I find him to be one of the most reliable Sierra Leoneans who has love for this country, who is dedicated to duty, which has the required knowledge

that we need to push this country forward. So I speak from the bottom of my heart that I am really very happy that Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai is taking up that position. I want to appeal to all Sierra Leoneans especially those of us in positions that could affect his job to please support him. I was at the Bintumani Conference Centre when the Medium Development Plan was launched; the plan for 2019 to 2023 and the Minister told us that they made a lot of consultations. When Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai spoke about ownership of the people and that was true because in the past, people sit down in air conditioned offices and come up with plans, but in this case, the Minister and team went all over the country consulting people from all walks of life and we came up with a plan. He said this plan will guide donors and will guide resource allocation. In the past, we saw Government allocating resources to particular parts of the country, leaving other parts unattended, but a plan like this and with a man like Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai at the helm of implementation of that plan, we are sure our country will see some change. I want to use this opportunity on behalf of the people of Pujehun District to thank His Excellency the President for giving this opportunity to one of the finest gentlemen from Pujehun District to service this country and I wish you well, God's protection and guidance and for me, Mr Speaker, this is one of the finest appointments I have seen in this House, I want to thank the President for appointing him and I wish him well, he is a very nice man, he is a very good brother, he is a person that loves Pujehun District; he can interact without boundaries and he is a very popular man, he wanted to be the District Chairman, but did not get it because God wanted him to serve the nation. I wish you well my brother. Thank you very much Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

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

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I had little or no sleep last night. As I was perusing, what came to my mind is the prayer of an American novelist and a Poet; Josiah Gilbert Holland. Mr Speaker, if Sierra Leone is in need of any other prayer at this point in time is the prayer of this man because it is most important for this nation. Let me read an excerpt of that prayer, he said: "*O God, give us men, men*

with strong minds, men with great hearts, men with true faith and men with ready hands". He said: "Give us men whom the lust of office will not kill, give us men whom the spoils of office cannot buy, give us men who stands before demagogue and damn the treacherous flatteries on the demagogues". He said: "Give us men who possess opinion of their own and will of their own, give us men with honour, give us men who cannot lie, give us men who are tall with a sound crown". But Mr Speaker, what we see today in our country is men who can mortgage the truth for the survival of their families [Applause], men who can see black and call it white because they want to stay in office as dictated by their office [Applause], men who do not mind putting their names and their family names on the limelight for 'cocoa and ebeh', men who do not mind to risk their generation because of what they benefit; selfish people, men who cover their faces to the truth and allow what their party thinks or what their Government thinks to survive regardless of the fact that it is against morality [Applause]. O God, it is my prayer that you give us men in Sierra Leone because Sierra Leone is lacking men. Every offices you go, you see men who will say if I speak the truth I will lose my office and I do not want to lose my office [Applause]. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to be that only man who will solitarily say, I am constrained to debate in the presence of strangers [Applause], men who have not gone through the right Constitutional provision to enter this House. I am saying, [Interruption]

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Mr Speaker, Point of Order!

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: It is my opinion. I am saying Mr Speaker and Honourable Members [Interruption]

THE SPEAKER: What is your Point of Order?

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I am standing on S.O 36, which speaks about relevance in debates. Mr Speaker, we are on the approval of Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai, can we please concentrate on that?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: I am talking on the approval; we need men to take his office. I am talking on the approval.

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: You have moved before now that there is no stranger in this House so that topic should not be introduced in any debate.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: There are strangers everywhere in this House.

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Mr Speaker, can you please rule on this Motion? Let us confine ourselves on the approval of Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for the Order, but there are strangers already in the House, they are all over in the Gallery, upper and lower, so carry on please. Carry on Honourable!

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Thank you Sir. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am predicating my argument on the bases of the fact that we are looking at people of integrity and people who should push Sierra Leone from the quagmire we are to an unprecedented citadel of envy in the world as a whole. So if I am perusing the character of certain individuals, I believe I should be given the ambience to do it with aplomb and panache [*Applause*]. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am saying it repeatedly that even if everybody is going to debate here, I Abdul Kargbo and one thing I have always said is that I am not the only righteous person in this Well, I am going to show the Speaker that there are righteous men in this Well, whosoever thinks that we should not debate when strangers are in our midst, let us stand up.

THE SPEAKER: And with that?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: And with that Mr Speaker, I want it to be essentially known

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Point of Order Mr Speaker.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Honourable Gevao you are interrupting.

THE SPEAKER: I was just curious, what is that red book, is it the book of prayers?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: This Red Book is the book that dictates the operation of our nation, Sierra Leone. This is the Constitution; the holy book of our land.

THE SPEAKER: You are the only one with a red book that contains that.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: I am not Mr Speaker, you have seen the others.

THE SPEAKER: You have exhausted your time, thank you.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: No, I have not landed Mr Speaker. You asked me to land, you interrogated me and I was answering to your question Sir.

THE SPEAKER: But I did say with that?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: No, but you asked me another question which I was answering Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: No, you wanted to make a demonstration which I thought you had done.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: No. I was not done Mr Speaker,

THE SPEAKER: You demonstrated the number of strangers.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: You have exhausted your time.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: No, I was answering to you because your questions are so important, I should not just discard them to **hell Mr Speaker.**

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker has ruled. You have exhausted your time.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Finally Mr Speaker, I want to make it known that in as much as the appeal period of fourteen days still stands, I want to advice Members that we are setting a precedent other Parliaments will follow. It is not for today, I have always said this that subsequently the easiest way to come to Parliament is to go and contest for an Opposition seat where the Opposition is not popular and when once you are petitioned, you would lose your seat and I am seeing that in the next Government most Members of Parliament are going to lose their seats through petitions and other people with low votes will capacitate this Parliament. So to me, I do not think I should continue with this sitting and all of us who think we should not continue with this sitting should do likewise.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I want to recognize the Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, let us wind up the debate.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, Point of Order!

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, you have the Floor.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, Point of Order please.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Thank you Mr Speaker. All we can say from this side is that we had good reason not to be present during the screening process even though Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai is a well-known person to us here. I want to thank you very much for given me this opportunity to make this very brief statement. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Leader of Government Business please!

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank my colleagues and I want to thank you Honourable Speaker for allowing our colleagues on the other side to participate in the debate despite the fact that they were not present. I do not want to say much but to ask *[Interruption]* Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is Parliament, we should always expect these kind of things, every Parliament will have their own issues; in Kenya they were fighting, we have ours and we would just be here shouting here and there

THE SPEAKER: Not only Kenya, I also saw Uganda fighting.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Exactly. So everything that is happening in this House is quite normal.

THE SPEAKER: And mercifully, there is no fighting today.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Exactly. So Honourable Members, let us continue in the spirit of oneness, we have only one Sierra Leone and we must take care of it. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the nominee we have before us today is a well-known person in this country; he participated in our reintegration programme after the war, he has served in the United Nations system for over ten years, he has been in the United Nations system, he has been representing us in United Nations in New York and today,

President has decided to appoint him as our Minister of Planning and Economic Development. I have no doubt that he can perform, he is our brother from Pujehun as any 'Wanjamarian' and any one of us from 'Wanjama' would perform the same way I am performing, the same way my Chief Whip is performing, we would continue to do so Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai, after today, you would be occupying a very important seat in this country, you would be occupying a position that is going to determine the future of our children in this country, you would be occupying a position that is going to determine the development of this country. For the first time in a very long time the President decided to have a separate Ministry as the Development and Planning and I believe like what Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai said during his interview that it was the best thing in the interest of this country. Mr Speaker, with the cooperation of my colleagues on the other side, we will continue to support you in this House and on a very serious note, as Leader of this House and Leader of Government Business, I want to apologise to you on their behalf for what happened here few minutes ago. I believe some of these Members of Parliament are young people, they are just coming to Parliament, we need to tutor them and people like my young brother over there, I am going to make sure after this sitting today, I will invite my young Honourable Member over there to my office to give him a small tutoring. Please Mr Speaker, accept my apology on behalf of my colleagues. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Leader of Government Business. Honourable Members order!

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

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

THE SPEAKER: It is now my singular honour and privilege to extend on behalf of the entire House our warmest congratulations and felicitations to Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai for his elevation to the position of Minister of Planning and Economic Development. As indeed, Members has observed Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai's name is no stranger to this nation, he made his mark in the post-conflict era and since then he has continued to make his mark both nationally and internationally. We are quite

convinced that His Excellency must have had very good reasons for wanting to redeploy the professional services of Dr Francis Mustapha Kaikai from where he was in New York, the fulcrum of international diplomacy back to the national arena where your role would be to guide, direct and protect the course of our national planning and development. We have no doubt in your ability to discharge the new role that is being assign to you to the best of your ability and we want you to go to your new assignment confident in the knowledge that you do so with the confidence, good will and best wishes of the entire House of Parliament. We wish you well *[Applause]*. By the way, the fact that only few Members were asked to speak on this particular Motion is no reflection at all of the qualities that you bear, it is just that we recognize that time is running against you and you have got to fly out of the country later this afternoon on national duty. So we wish you well and safe landing on your next undertaking. Good luck *[Applause]*.

ANNOUNCEMENT ON COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to announce the Membership of the Committee of Selection:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. Hon. Speaker | - | Chairman |
| 2. Hon. Sidie M. Tunis | - | Deputy Chairman |
| 3. Hon. Chernor Ramadan Maju Bah | - | Member |
| 4. Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina | - | Member |
| 5. Hon. Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella | - | Member |
| 6. Hon. Veronica K. Sesay | - | Member |
| 7. Hon. Quintin Salia Konneh | - | Member |
| 8. Hon. Umar Paran Tarawally | - | Secretary |

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Leader of Government Business for that announcement. Honourable Leader of Government Business, will you couch your statement in the form of a Motion please? *[Undertones]* He did not move, he made an announcement. My ears were wide open.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the following Members in line with S.O 71, constitute Members of the Committee on Selection:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. Hon. Speaker | - | Chairman |
| 2. Hon. Sidie M. Tunis | - | Deputy Chairman |
| 3. Hon. Chernor Ramadan Maju Bah | - | Member |
| 4. Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina | - | Member |
| 5. Hon. Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella | - | Member |
| 6. Hon. Veronica K. Sesay | - | Member |
| 7. Hon. Quintin Salia Konneh | - | Member |
| 8. Hon. Umar Paran Tarawally | - | Secretary |

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Members that is the Motion; any seconder?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I rise to second that those names be approved by this House, that is the most fair list my Leader can present to this House. I therefore move that those names be accepted by this House. I second the Motion Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Members, you have heard the Motion and which has been seconded.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The following Members in line with S.O 71, have been approved as Members of the Committee on Selection]

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, I have a counter Motion Mr Speaker and it is my right. Mr Speaker, a counter Motion please.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, Point of Order!

HON. LAHAI MARAH: I have a counter Motion

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Clerk please, I have a Point of Order.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: That Committee is not properly constituted Mr Speaker, if you allow me to bring it out.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker,

HON. LAHAI MARAH: The Committee of Selection

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Honourable Lahai Marah,

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker,

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: The Honourable Lahai Marah,

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Is not properly constituted. I am a Senior Member of Parliament, how can Honourable Tawa has the Floor before me? Mr Speaker, you should give me the Floor.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: I have catch the eyes of Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Tawa.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave Mr Speaker, I want to make an announcement.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker has given me the Floor Leader of Government Business.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker,

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, those are two rivals, can we please allow them to rest?

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: No, is not rivalry, it has to do with parliamentary procedures. Lahai Marah is my brother and we went to the same school.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: I also do have a Point of Order Mr Speaker and I stood before Honourable Tawa. Mr Speaker, I am a Senior Member of Parliament and I want you to respect that Mr Speaker.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, I am a Senior Member than Tawa.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, I have a Point of Order and the Honourable Lahai Marah is disturbing.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker that is not done.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: It does not apply in Parliament, it only apply at the Bar.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: It does not have anything to do with seniority Honourable Marah.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: I am a Senior Member of Parliament Mr Speaker.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: It is for the Lawyers.

THE SPEAKER: You are obstructing.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, I should be given the Floor. I have a right.

THE SPEAKER: I have not given you the Floor. Honourable Tawa, you have the Floor.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Mr Speaker, it is not fair. You are being bias in this Parliament Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: That is your opinion.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: It is not my opinion, but that is what you are exhibiting in this Parliament Mr Speaker.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker my Point of Order is coming from Standing Order 70[1]b. Mr Speaker, for the general understanding with your leave, can I read the Standing Order? It reads, "*The Committee on Selection shall consist of the Speaker as Chairman, the Supervisory Committee and three members of the House whose nomination by the Speaker and the Supervisory Committee...*" [Interruption]

HON. LAHAI MARAH: We are on the same page. We have not yet been informed and that is my position.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: So please let me finish.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: No, but why, the Committee of Selection is not properly constituted.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: So let me finish. Now we are speaking from the same page so please let me finish.

HON. LAHAI MARAH: Now you are seeing what I am trying to portray.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, from the Standing Order, I realized that the Committee of Selection may not have been properly constituted taking into consideration what is stipulated in the Order. The Order says: *"The Committee of Selection shall consist of the Speaker as Chairman, the Supervisory Committee and three members of the House whose nomination by the Speaker and the Supervisory Committee shall be approved by the House. The Committee shall inform the House by means of a report when any Members has been nominated to any Committee."* With this Mr Speaker, I think the names announced far outweighed what is required by the Standing Order and therefore, I believe the approval by this House I do not want to ask that it being revoked, but I want to move a counter Motion *[Undertone]* Mr Deputy Speaker, can you allow me to exercise my right as Member of Parliament? It is my right, I was elected by people, it is my right to understand the documents that we used in Parliament and it is also my right to speak for and on behalf of the people of this country and what is stipulated in the Standing Order we must respect. Mr Speaker I crave your indulgence that we look into Standing Order 70[1]b and please reconstitute the Committee as stated.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Tawa, will you draw my attention specifically to the part to which you are raising objection? As I understand it, the Committee of Selection, the composition is very clearly spelt out in paragraph [1]b of S.O 70. It talks about the Speaker as Chairman, the Supervisory Committee and three members of the House whose nomination by the Speaker and the Supervisory Committee shall be approved by the House so you are talking about *[undertone]* I have not entertain anybody to be speaking whilst I am. There are three components, Honourable Tawa, I want you to draw my attention specifically to the point of objection that you have.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: I think you have clarified the point of objection and now you have stated the Supervisory Committee which by the Standing Orders does not state the numerical strength of the Supervisory Committee. That notwithstanding, I would also want to state that the Deputy Speaker should not intimidate me.

THE SPEAKER: No, but are you aware that there is a Supervisory Committee provided for in Paragraph 13 of S.O 70? So there are three components of 70[1]b; 'Mr Speaker, the Supervisory Committee and three other members of the House.' Now, as you rightly observed, there is no number indicated in 70[13], I hope you will agree with me so when you raised your objection I want to try to understand the basis of your objection *[undertone]* no, wait a minute, I do not know whether you alluded to 70[13] when you were making your objection? Honourable Tawa, do you wish to proceed with your objection or not?

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: No, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: There is no number specified in 70[13] so I do not know what you are objecting to?

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, the only objection I would have further to that is that S.O 70[13] says "A Supervisory Committee of all Committees consisting of all Parliamentary Leaders..." and I am not sure whether the Honourable Quintin Salia Konneh is a parliamentary Leader.

THE SPEAKER: I had ruled on that ages ago if you recall. I do not want you to take us back he is an Independent Member of the House.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: They are three Independent Members of the House.

THE SPEAKER: But they did not constitute a unit.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Hence the Supervisory Committee says the Committee of Committees consist of all parliamentary Leaders.

THE SPEAKER: Let us stop being dilatory, are you still sticking to your Motion?

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, should we agree that the Honourable Quintin Salia Konneh is not a parliamentary Leader I would drop my Motion.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: What if they do not agree?

THE SPEAKER: Is a parliamentary Leader of himself as an Independent Member.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: And there are others within the same confines.

THE SPEAKER: I have long ago ruled on that.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Identifying themselves as parliamentary Leaders.

THE SPEAKER: I have long ago ruled in this House, from the inception of this House that the three Members do not constitute a unit.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Hence, I think the Constitution... [Interruption]

THE SPEAKER: So each one of them is a Leader in his or her own right.

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Well in that instance Mr Speaker, I want all three Members of the Independent category to be included in the Supervisory Committee since they are all Leaders in their own rights.

THE SPEAKER: Well, that is your opinion. You are delaying the proceeding please. Any Announcements?

HON. SHAIKA M. SAMA: Mr Speaker, S.O 23 please.

HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, at the next adjourned date, I just want to inform Honourable Members, that we would have on the Order Paper, Report of the Motion of Appointments and the Public Service. We would also be considering the Sexual Offences Amendment Act, 2019 and three Announcement of Sessional Committees at the next adjourned date.

HON. SHAIKA M. SAMA: S.O 23.

THE SPEAKER: No, before that. Pursuant to what the Leader of Government Business has just said, as Chairman of the Committee of Selection, I am convening the first meeting of that Committee in this Session at 3p.m. today after we rise from this sitting,

3p.m. would be the first meeting of that Committee in this Session [*undertone*] he is just a Member out of eight but of course in deference to that point, we would extend an invitation to the Acting Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo to join us. Clerk, do you have any other announcements?

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE SPEAKER: Is it under S.O 23 again? Honourable Sama, I really do not wish to entertain any more S.O 23.

HON. SHAIKA M. SAMA: As you wish Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Is it anything bordering on your personal safety? I am coming to that [*undertone*]. Let me take this opportunity once more to draw attention to the previous announcements I made about question time. Question time provides you with a platform that is certainly better utilized than S.O 23 because for S.O 23 your audience is limited to your colleague Members of Parliament; but with Question time your concerns as they affect you personally or your constituents can be addressed to the relevant Ministry Department Agencies [MDA's] and the Heads of those MDA's can easily be brought to this Chambers to answer your questions. Again, I will implore Honourable Members, to please take advantage of 'Question Time' facility provided for in the Standing Orders. If you do not know how to craft your question, the Legislative Department is there to be of assistance to you. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 1:02p.m. and was adjourned to Thursday, 20th June, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.]