



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION - SECOND MEETING

FRIDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER, 2018

SESSION – 2018/2019



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Friday, 16th November, 2018.

CONTENTS

I. PRAYERS

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 2018.

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

PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HON. HASSAN A. SESAY

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE NINETEETH 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 APPROPRIATION ACT, 2019

BEING AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND FOR THE SERVICES OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE YEAR 2019 AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

SECOND READING

[THIRD ALLOTTED DAY]



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Friday, 16th November, 2018.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 10:55 a.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 SITTINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH AND THURSDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 2018.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I was told that the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 15th November, 2018 is not yet ready. I propose that we deal with what is available.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARBGO: Mr Speaker, I was surprised that we do not have a copy of those records, but thank you. We will listen to you and wait for the next sitting for the reading of those records. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have not seen the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on the 15th November, 2018, but for technical reasons, it cannot be reproduced today.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARBGO: Well, these records are linked with the budget.

THE SPEAKER: I have just been assured that they are ready for distribution. We start with the record of the 14th November, 2018. Today is going to be a very short sitting and I will try to bring it to a close by 12:00pm or 12:30pm, so that those who are good Muslims will have the opportunity to pay homage to our Maker. Alhaji Mohamed Bangura, I am sure you will forgive all of them. Honourable Members, while I give notice of a very short sitting, I will also give notice of a very long sitting on Monday to make up for the deficit. I want all of you to come well prepared on Monday for a very long sitting because that would be the last day of the Second Reading. We can now proceed with today's business. We would skip the usual four Pages and start with Page 5. Any comments or amendments? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10?

Honourable Members, since there is no comment, we move to the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on the 15th November, 2018. I hope you

have received that document. If you have just received a copy, please start browsing. I will just allow a minute or two for you to do that.

Honourable Members, while we browse through, I want to know whether the vote controllers are here. I want a record of Vote Controllers to be taken. I want them to rise so that we can see them. We have nominees and once they are approved, I would like to see the Vote Controllers here. This is really where you belong and not in the gallery.

Honourable Members, as usual, we shall skip pages 1 to 4. We start with Page 5. Page 6? Page 7? Page 7?

HON. ALHAJI SORIEBA TURAY: There is a mistake on Page 7. The House was adjourned and it should be 1:05 p.m. *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. You truly live up to your good name as 'Tamεmkε *[Laughter]*.

HON. IBRAHIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I was present on the 14th and 15th November, 2018, but I was marked absent. Mr Speaker, I need your protection from the Clerk.

THE SPEAKER: I am sure you were present, but not in the Chamber. This is where you must be present, in this Chamber.

HON. IBRAHIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I was here sir.

THE SPEAKER: Are you sure?

HON. IBRAHIM KAMARA: Certainly, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I ask again, are you sure you were here on Thursday?

HON. IBRAHIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, we were here yesterday.

THE SPEAKER: I only saw one person here yesterday morning and that is Honourable Ibrahim. B. Kargbo.

HON. IBRAHIM KAMARA: I think our Leadership took excuse on behalf of all of us.

THE SPEAKER: I never saw anything in writing in my office.

HON. IBRAHIM KAMARA: It was done orally, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member that is not the procedure. Please read the Standing Orders, but I will overlook it. I am still dealing with one issue and I have not finished with it yet. I am addressing the issue about those who have been marked present or absent. We are getting into a perennial issue because people usually move in and out of the Chamber. Some of them enter the Chamber and after they have been marked present, they leave the Chamber immediately. That should stop because you are Honourable Members. In other words, you are not just ladies and gentlemen, but Honourable Members of this country.

HON. IBRAHIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think yesterday morning was not the end of the day. We were not here yesterday morning, but we contributed to yesterday's debate.

THE SPEAKER: You want to make it an issue, Honourable Member? If you answer, you will lose. Mr Leader, I think you have to advise your Member not to make this an issue; otherwise he will be a loser. If you challenge my decision on that, you will be a loser. I can assure you, Honourable Member. I want you to read the Standing Orders properly. I will overlook that one for now. I saw somebody wanting to catch my eye. Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? If there is no correction or amendment, would somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Wednesday, 14th November, 2018 as presented?

HON. BRIMA MANSARAY: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ALUSINE KANNEH: Mr Speaker, I so second.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I move to the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 15th November, 2018. A usual, I will skip pages 1-4. Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? If there is no correction or amendment, would somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Thursday, 15th November, 2018 as presented?

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

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: Mr Speaker, I so second.

[Questions Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Records of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sittings held on Wednesday, 14th and Thursday, 15th November, 2018 have been adopted as amended]

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

PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HON. HASSAN A. SESAY

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NINETEENTH REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to present the Nineteenth Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on Parliamentary Vetting of Presidential Nominees:

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service that is in charged with the responsibility of scrutinizing and vetting Presidential nominees and selecting the most fitted and qualified persons to serve in public offices, met on Tuesday, 13th November, 2018 and interviewed six Presidential nominees for the following appointments:

- i. Four Members, Independent Media Commission [IMC];
- ii. Member, Tertiary Education Commission; and
- iii. Chairman, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency Board [SLIEPA].

2. Procedure

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

3. *Twenty-Second Sitting of the Committee on Tuesday 13th November 2018*

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

[i] *Dr Victor Salifu Suma, Proposed Member, Independent Media Commission*

Dr Victor Salifu Suma is an independent Media Practitioner and Communication specialist that is held in high esteem. From 2014 - 2016, Dr. Suma served as General Manager, African Young Voices [AYV] Media Empire in charge of Television, Radio and the Printing Press. Reacting to the concerns of Members that there is a high concentration of media institutions in Freetown, Dr Suma opined that many people have mistakenly taken Freetown to represent the entire Sierra Leone. Freetown, he said, is the capital of Sierra Leone and hence a part of Sierra Leone, he advocated for the decentralization of Media houses and training institutions.

Answering to further questions, Dr Suma said that by virtue of his fifteen years' media work experience and service [both locally and internationally], including his studies up to Doctoral level, he advocated for and promised to work tirelessly for the rebranding of the Media in Sierra Leone. **"The IMC should have an agenda to capacitate the Media and make them specialise in politics, economic, medical, and legal and other subject matters."**

[ii] Rev Eranus Tappeh Christian Thompson, Proposed Member, Independent Media Commission [IMC]

Rev. Eranus Tappeh Christian Thompson is an Electrical Engineer with personal skills and competence in operations Management, strategic thinking and staff performance management. He is currently serving as Chairman, Board of Directors, and AI Network. Reacting to the concerns of Members about the Social Media, Rev. Eranus Tappeh Christian Thompson opined that most of the news people read or listen to these days comes from the social media and most of the messages are very much derogatory and damaging to the characters and integrity of other Social Media users. I think this must stop or be regulated. What I think we need to do at IMC is to target those persons who initiate or do the first postings. We cannot put restrictions on everyone, but we can devise a way to identify the persons who do the first postings. If we could do that, we could put a significant reduction to the social media menace.

[iii] Professor Patrick Francis Taylor, Proposed Member, Independent Media Commission [IMC]

Professor Patrick Francis Unisa Taylor is an expert in information technology with other professional skills in Teaching, Research, Design, work in Tele-Mechanics control and computer Engineering Systems. He is currently serving as visiting Professor of Information Communications Technology.

In his interview, Professor Patrick Francis Unisa Taylor deposed that he was an ICT specialist with university teaching experience since 1973. **“Given the fact that the media in today’s world is almost entirely electronics, I think my experience and expertise would enable me to make meaningful contributions to achieve those goals for which the Independent Media Commission was established,”** he said.

[iv] Professor Cecil Magbaily Fyle, Proposed Member, Tertiary Education Commission

Professor Emeritus Cecil Magbaily Fyle is a renowned educationalist and the first Sierra Leone Professor of History, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. Professor

Emeritus Cecil Magbaily Fyle is currently the Chairman of Milton Margai College of Education and Technology Council.

Reacting to the Committee's inquiries, Professor Emeritus Cecil Magbaily Fyle said that "the function of the Tertiary Education Commission is to ensure that the colleges do not operate unless they are approved by the TEC. We have to look at their physical structures, their staffing, their level of intake, their curricula etc. etc. We have to look at these before we approve the institution. TEC does not however have the mandate to close any of those institutions and that is the problem. We have submitted to government for an amendment to the Act that would empower the TEC to stop some of those institutions that do not meet the standard requirements of the T.E.C.

Responding to further question on the polytechnics, Professor Magbaily Fyle opined that the polytechnics are now trying to transform themselves into universities which, he said, is the wrong approach. **"What I think we need to stress is for the polytechnics to cater for the middle level manpower. The whole idea of polytechnics is the technical power of their education. Their essence is not to give out university diploma, but to enhance people with technical skills to make them more functional in our society. We need to support Government to pay attention to that area,"** he said.

[v] Mr Jonathan J. George, Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency Board [SLIEPA]

Mr Jonathan George is an entrepreneur with proven track records in Hotel Management and in turning around underperforming businesses. He is currently the Managing Director J&E Hotel and Resort [SL] Limited, Bo city, Sierra Leone.

In his interview, Mr. Jonathan J. George said that he was quite au fait with the Parliamentary Act that established SLIEPA. His functions, he said, were to make good policies and to advise the Executive Director in the day to day affairs of the institution. **"I promise to go strictly by the Act and the policies that would be made thereto. This nation has to come first above all other considerations,"** he said.

[vi] Mr Ansu Baatillo Lansana, Proposed Member, Independent Media Commission

Mr Ansu Baatillo Lansana is a legal practitioner of high repute. From 2009 to 2011, he served as legal Adviser of the ruling Sierra Leone People's party [SLPP]. He is currently the Head of the Massah Chambers.

Answering to probing questions, Mr Ansu Baatillo Lansana thanked the President for nominating him adding that he viewed his nomination as a call to national duty. **"If I obtain the blessings of approval from this Honourable House, I will draw on my wealth of experience and expertise to ensure that the Independent Media Commission achieve those objectives for which it was established. He assured the committee that he will cooperate with his colleague Members and would work to take the IMC to another level,"** he said.

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] Dr Victor Salifu Suma, Member, Independent Media Commission;

[ii] Rev Eranus T. C. Thompson, Member, Independent Media Commission;

[iii] Mr Patrick Francis Taylor, Member, Independent Media Commission;

[iv] Prof Cecil Magbaily Fyle, Member, Tertiary Education Commission;

[v] Mr Jonathan J. George, Chairman, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency Board [SLIEPA]; and

[vi] Mr Ansu Baatillo Lansana, Member, Independent Media Commission

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Nineteenth Report reflects the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that the Nineteenth 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. Presented by Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma, Acting Chairman.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before I call for a seconder, I want to make an observation. I am sure the Honourable Ibrahim B. Kargbo will be very pleased with this observation. The word probing appeared only once in the Report this time *[Applause]*. I will implore Honourable Members to keep the debate on these appointments very short, so that we can move to the real business of the day. In that regard, I will entertain not more than two speakers for either side of the aisles, starting with the seconder of the Motion.

[Question Proposed]

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are going through a process which is usual in this House; i.e., approval of Presidential nominees. I am opportune to have somebody whom I do not only hold in high esteem, but he is recognised along the lengths and breadths of Sierra Leone as one of the most gifted historians in this country. In other words, I stand in this Well for the second time to talk about a man who has helped me become who I am today *[Applause]*. Unfortunately, the Leader on the other side was not fortunate to have been taught by Prof. Magbaily Fyle *[Laughter]*. Sometimes it is not enough to pay somebody for the wealth of knowledge he has helped you to acquire.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we were at Fourah Bay College, the one-time Athens of West Africa, Prof. Magbaily Fyle taught me that the truth could be told in a very respectable manner. I must state again that it is a honour for me to stand here and talk about Prof. Magbaily Fyle. I will always remain grateful to him for what he did for a host of us that went through him at Fourah Bay College. I want to thank him very much and we must always reward him for what he has done for this Nation. We will continue to give him the support he requires. I am sure Prof. Magbaily Fyle and Prof. Algalie will do well in the Tertiary Education Commission [TEC]. I am also confident that the TEC is going to have quality people. I think quality is what we have lost in our educational system *[Applause]*. When you have people of this nature, the institution that we are talking about will restore its credibility. We know that in the next five years, these people will give what is required of them.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you have a professor and college mates as nominees, I think I have it all. Mr George and I were students in college together and I know he is fit for the job. He will do well at SLIEPA because we need people who are dynamic, objective and forward looking to serve such institution *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for those who know Professor Taylor will definitely tell you that he is man of good character and quality intellect. He is always ready to give his best, no matter the situation. I believe that the IMC has the right people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk briefly talk about Mr Ansu Batillo Lansana, proposed Member, Independent Media Commission. We have been friends for quite a while and he is a very good nominee. I know he has passion for quality and delivery and he will always do his best to make sure that the IMC stands the test of time. He is always committed to what he does, no matter the nature of the assignment. He always prepares to do his best in terms of making sure that the right thing is done.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to ask my colleagues to approve these nominees and I have no doubt in their ability to perform. They will deliver as expected. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Kargbo, you have the Floor.

HON. DR ROLAND F. KARGBO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the Speaker for giving me the opportunity to speak about the nominees before us this morning. We have witnessed the presentation of nominees in this House who were highly experienced and qualified. Mr Speaker, each time I had an opportunity to speak, I always say 'they are good nominees but not the best nominees.' What we are experiencing is the fact. This means that this country does not lack potentials and they are lucky people because they were able to catch the eye of His Excellency the President *[Applause]*. There are many Sierra Leoneans as good as the nominees in front of us, but they have not been able to catch the eye of His Excellency the

President. Therefore, you should be thankful to him. You have caught his attention because of your performance in your previous employments. I know all of you will prove yourself as capable in the present dispensation. You have gone through the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service and the Chairman has presented you before the whole House for approval. What we are doing now is a mere formality. However, this is an opportunity for us to say few things that will help you in your various offices when you shall have received the blessings of this House. Many of you have excelled in various employments where you have full authority. Many of you are going to work in various committees; and in committees, you are only one among equals. You must learn how to lobby and get the attention of others. You have to convince others to follow your convictions. We expect that you turn over the circumstances of the committees and commissions where you are going to serve.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have been in this exercise for over nearly a year now and things have not changed much. We must challenge you at this point to put your heads above the water. I do not personally know any of the nominees and this makes it difficult for me to make a personal reference. However, I want to say Professor Magbaily Fyle is going to the TEC. This commission has appeared before us in the previous Parliament several times and the former Minister of Education made some presentations here. He made reference to the activities of the Commission and the constraints they had with regards to managing the affairs of the various tertiary institutions. I think these are areas we need to look into properly. This is because if we talk about the falling standards of education, its means it is down from top to the bottom. If we are to repair the damages in the education sector, we have to start from the bottom to the top, including tertiary institutions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think it is time that we start holding officials in positions of trust responsible for the things that happen in their departments. I am not impressed by those institutions that have not been complying, but whosoever is in position of authority in that institution, he or she should be held accountable. I think it

is time we start holding none performing officials accountable for the things that happen in their departments.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if a tertiary institution fails to comply with the conditions set by the Commission, we need to look at who is responsible instead of talking about closing an institution. I have always said that closing an institution has lots of implications because many innocent people will be affected for the action of one person. I think this is an issue we do not need to discuss here, but to hold none complying officers accountable for their actions. I have no special comment for anybody, but I think the nominees are good and we should approve them. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I will allow only one more person. Reverend, the consensus is against you. I will recognise the Honourable Member at the far end.

HON. MOHAMED KANNEH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am grateful to Allah for giving me this opportunity to catch the Speaker's eye. As advised by the Speaker, I am not going to waste much of your time. My senior colleague from the other side, Honourable Dr Roland Kargbo has just mentioned that the nominees we have before are not the best, but they should count themselves lucky to catch the President's attention. I also want to add that what the President does in his nomination is that he looked at the principles of the 'New Direction' which he mentioned here during the official opening of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President has made us to believe that one of the principles upon which the 'New Direction' moves is disciplined leadership. I am sure he does not only look at lucky people, but he tries to ensure that those he nominates are disciplined people. The President spoke about integrity and I am sure all those that he nominates, apart from their academic backgrounds, are people who will always defend their integrity. Among the principles he spoke about is professionalism. I believe all the nominees we have approved in this House, including these ones, we have heard how people talking about their professionalism. The President also spoke about delivery or

performance. I am sure from the experiences they have from where they have worked before we can agree that most of them have been able to deliver.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to make some comments about one nominee. He is my brother from Mandu Chiefdom, Mr Ansu Mbatilo Lansana. He is a legal luminary from the constituency which used to be part of the constituency I represent. Mr Ansu Mbatilo Lansana was really supposed to be here as a Member of Parliament since 2012. I am sure some of you have heard what actually happened. This was a man who got a landslide victory in a Parliamentary election in 2012. He got over **80%** of the people of those three chiefdoms; i.e., Dia, Mandu and Malema, but we all know why he was taken to court. He represented himself in court and the court never found him wanting. That young man was denied coming to this Parliament. I am particularly happy to see him in this Well today. I want to welcome my brother and to assure him of this House support. Mr Ansu Mbatilo Lansana possesses the principles the President mentioned in his 'New Direction' agenda. I think that is why the President nominated him to be part of the Independent Media Commission.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask this Honourable House to approve the nominees in front of us. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. We shall now wind up the debate. I call on Honourable Ibrahim B. Kargbo, to be followed by the Leader of the Government Business.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we need not to remind ourselves that this is a statutory function which we will continue to observe from time to time. Indeed the President also has the statutory function of appointing people to occupy important public offices and it is because of that we have these nominees here today. I know a good number of them, but I will only talk about those in the media and ICT. Some of us are very satisfied because the President gives a lot of premium to the development of the IMC. I am saying this because he has appointed quite a number of highly respected and knowledgeable people as Commissioners of the IMC. For all of you who are going to be

members of the IMC Board are all here and I can only say that I congratulate you in advance. If this House approves your nominations, I want to tell you that the challenges are there, but you have to put structures that are necessary in order to improve the status of the IMC. This is why Mr Lansana is going to the IMC with his legal background. I am sure he will help the IMC to put in place legal structures that will ensure that members of the public and the media practitioners are protected. I have no fear that Mr Lansana is a capable man. When we were in the process of returning this country to democratic rule, he was one of the people mentioned. I used to take him to the television to argue the legalities of democracy. He is a good man and I want to welcome him.

Mr Speaker, Prof. Cecil Magbaily Fyle is a household name. He is an academic par excellence. For those of us who belong to the generation he belongs, we took academia very seriously, not only because we tried hard to see and work towards expertise like what the Speaker has done, but we also tried to make sure that we are recognised both locally and internationally. Professor Cecil Magbaily Fyle has not only taught at Fourah Bay College, but has also worked very hard in the United States of America, where he is recognised as an academic professor in the area of History. Talking about recognition, let me state that indeed the state has recognised the role which Professor Cecil Magbaily Fyle has played in this country. He has served as a member of the Tertiary Commission even before now. He was recognised to chair the committee for the 50 years of the independence of Sierra Leone, which is no mean achievement. He has also been identified to be a member of the Council of Milton Margai. Additionally, he has also done many intellectual works. His books are recognised as books that must be referred to when talking about History and academics. I think the public recognise his role and his appointment to this Commission which is responsible to train academics is like taking a fish to the pond. I will only say that the President did a very good job by identifying Prof. Cecil Magbaily Fyle. I will always respect you and you are recognised I want to congratulate you in advance.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, going by your advice, you will understand why I decided to talk about the nominees to the IMC. I want to admonish them to ensure that we work within the time limit necessary for us to perform our duties here. We have also approved Mr George Khoryama. I want to however recognise him. I know members of his family and he comes from a good pedigree. I am certain that if he goes to his new job, he will perform remarkably well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, without wasting further time, I simply want to advise or admonish that when it comes to discussing issues that have to do with the efforts of His excellency the President to meet his statutory duties, I do not think we should begin to introduce controversies in such discussions. We on this side respect the President and respect his nominees. Therefore, when they come here for screening and onward approval, we do so with open minds. So, to suggest ill motive at the time when we should be congratulating the nominees, is most unacceptable. However, the details of my concern will be kept for another day. Today, the nominees' friends, parents, wives and other relatives will be happy for your nomination by the President and this House has found it necessary to recognise the effort of the President by ensuring that you go to your offices and perform the duties you have been nominated to serve. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Acting Leader of Government Business.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and Honourable Leader of the opposition. We appreciate your comments and we look forward to working with you in unison. We also want to assure you that we have the vision of Sierra Leone and that is why we are placing competent Sierra Leoneans with high pedigree and moral standards. We believe we can take this country to a level where the SLPP, APC, NGC and C4C would want Sierra Leone to be, so that we can feel very proud. I want to say we will continue to monitor all presidential nominees through our Oversight Committees as Members of Parliament. We will work together in order to ensure compliance and enforcement in everything we do.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank my colleagues for their wonderful contributions. I hope all of us will work together as a team. This is all what we need in the interest of one people, one country. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Acting Leader of Government Business.

[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 privilege, on behalf of the House, to extend our warmest congratulations and felicitations to the new nominees who have just been approved. As a matter of fact, they are very good nominees. I would venture to say that they may not be the best, but they are certainly among the best that this society has to offer. Some of them I know very well as indeed Honourable Members have acknowledged if they were to be classified, they can always be classified among the best of the best. I am particularly struck by the comment that Professor Cecil Magbaily Fyle has made which I want to re-echo, so that we bear it in mind and anticipate the relevant legislation that will come before us. I would want to take a sentence from what he told the Committee. He said the whole idea of the polytechnics is the technical power of their education; therefore polytechnics must not try to be what they are not. They are not universities. They are polytechnics set up to train people in technical areas not in academic areas and must not therefore move from that area to becoming something that they are not supposed to be. So, we stand ready professor Cecil Magbaily Fyle to accede to the request that the Act needs to be revisited and as soon as it is presented to this House, we will do the needful. We want to thank all of you and wish all of you well in your undertakings. We are very proud of all of you and we are sure you are going to live up to the trust and confidence reposed on you by the President and this House. Thank you and good luck.

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

THE SPEAKER: At this moment in time, may I invite the Vote Controllers who are in the galleries to please come down and occupy the empty seats.

IV. THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 2019

BEING AN ACT TO AUTHORISE EXPENDITURE FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND FOR THE SERVICES OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE YEAR 2019 AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

SECOND READING

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

[THIRD ALLOTTED DAY]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have the Floor, but I am going to be very judicious in the way I will apportion the time amongst those wishing to speak today. We have barely an hour so I will give each Member ten minutes.

HON. DR ABDULAI SESAY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also want to thank the people from the Ministry of Finance for this Budget. Our duty, as opposition Members of Parliament, is to support what is good and provide solutions for things that are not right. It is our responsibility to ensure that we point out those errors to ensure that we do what is right. I am asking all Members of Parliament to pay keen attention to some few facts. Our responsibility is to ensure that the right things are done. One of the most important things in life is when people accept corrections. When you accept corrections then you are ready to do what is right; but when you insist to continue doing what is not right, then it is going to be a disaster because they might not lead us correctly
[Applause].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are two things I want to highlight. Our friend from the other side misled this House the other day that the APC government lost donor confidence. I want to say to this House that this is not correct. That is just to say this country continued to receive money and donor supports. If you can only allow me I will highlight some facts. I want to thank the President for His determination to continue with the infrastructural development of this country, which was a legacy that was left by the APC government. Nobody will dispute the facts about the tremendous strides the APC government took to develop 'mama salone'. Mr Speaker, since

government is continuity, this is why it is important for us to work together in order to continue with the legacies left behind. The road infrastructure project is one of the things I admire about the 'New Direction.' What the APC Government did was to ensure that certain areas of this country are interlinked, but without good roads, there is no way commerce, agriculture and other sectors will develop. I saw it in the Budget Speech of the President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to bring to the notice of this House that the road that was mentioned by other Members of Parliament from Matotoka to Kono is a newly constructed road and it does not need rehabilitation. The President highlighted the Matotoka-Yele-Bo Road to be a key priority road. I will like to put before this House and to the Minister that the road between Matotoka, Yele and Bo is a major road that links the Northern and the Southern Regions. That is a road that has been neglected for so many years and if the President mentions it in his Speech for construction, I think we have to support him, instead of spending money on the rehabilitation of the Matotoka/Kono Road which has just been completed. We do not want wastages at all. Therefore, I want to ask the Minister to review the Budget on this particular aspect because there is a major road which links the Northern and the Southern Regions. I also believe that my colleagues on the other side will support the financing of the Matotoka, Yele Bo Road because this is a road that links the two regions. It also links the two districts and it is a very important road. Yele being the centre of this country, let us ensure that we give it the face that it deserves *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am saddened to hear people condemning the Free Health Care and the Health Delivery Service of our country. As a medical practitioner, I want to say that a lot has been achieved, but the truth remains that we still have a long way to go because Medicine is a dynamic field. There are many things you need to put in place if you want to achieve success. I think over the years, what we have been doing is to lay the foundation for a sound Primary Health Care System. Therefore, when you look at the World Health Organisation report of 2017, there are clear indicators of achievements made over the years with our health delivery system. Although we still

have challenges in the health sector, we have to stop the blame game. I hate it when people go with the phenomenon of fixing their eyes on their brother's big heads and do not see how big their own heads are *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: All what he is saying is that we all have big heads *[Laughter]*.

HON. DR ABDULAI SESAY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. You are quite right. I want to go into the Budget proper. I want to state here that you cannot bite more than what you can chew. When you bite more than you can chew, then you will have a problem. I refer the House to Page 498, under 'Budget Estimates.' As I said, if you look at the Budget for the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, it talks about review and roll outs of Scheme of Service. It also talks about several things. It says: **"you scale up and sustain delivery of maternal child and adolescent health services, complete and operationalised of the National Ambulance Service."** That is very good because we need to establish school clinics. We already have the National Public Health Agency. I have problems with this. How can we establish a Public Health Agency when we already have a blotted wage Bill? Creating more agencies will only increase the wage Bill of this country. Therefore, I see no need to establish a new Agency when we already have the Public Health Sierra Leone. We need to empower and strengthen it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the next point I want to talk about is **"Improved Service Delivery' at the hospital level through establishing cancer and major diagnostic centres [includes Endoscopy, MRI, CT Scans, Cardiograms, Dialysis in all five Regions]."** I want to state that it is very true that we need some of these facilities, but if you want to open a Cancer Unit in every region, definitely it is not practical because of the high cost that involves in purchasing one MRI. You also have to ensure that you recruit competent staff to manage such facilities. Therefore, I want to encourage government to pay attention to the establishment of a 'centre of excellence' either in Freetown or in the regions. If you have an excellent one, then we can use it to refer patients *[Applause]*. At the moment, we are referring our patients to Ghana for Chemotherapy and for basic Cancer treatments of the breast. It costs this country a lot of money. So, I think we should not be over ambitious to open centres all over the

country when it is so expensive. Let us try to establish one that will be beneficial to all Sierra Leoneans. Do not chew more than what you can bite.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am so sorry, but there are few other things I want to highlight. I am pleading with you Mr Speaker to make sure they look at all these units *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I think the majority of us are persuaded that indeed what you are saying needs to be said. You have my permission to continue *[Applause]*.

HON. [DR] ABDULAI SESAY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. That is why I love you, Mr Speaker *[Laughter]*. I want to say something very important. A lot of our people are dying of Prostate Cancer. A simple treatment of prostate Cancer costs **Le2.4Mln** for just a dose because our health delivery system has not put mechanisms in place to ensure that people with cancer of various categories are looked after *[Applause]*. Mr Minister, I think the issue of cancer is very serious. As a Medical Practitioner, I detect Prostate Cancer, breast Cancer and even Cold Cancer on a daily basis. It is sad to note that there is nothing we can do in this country to help these cases.

THE SPEAKER: I see many of us as eligible Patients for Prostate Cancer. So, let us pay attention *[Laughter]*.

HON. [DR] ABDULAI SESAY: I am more than ready to work with you, Mr Minister, so that we can set up one unit. One of the basic things we need in this country is Cancer Register, which we do not have. As a nation, we need a Cancer Register to know exactly the types of Cancers we have in this country and the type of chemotherapy these cancers are susceptible to *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is one important thing I want to tell the Minister. In that regard, I refer the House to Page 571 of the Budget Estimates. There is something I want to bring to the notice of this House. I think it is very important. Page 571 talks about details of the National Radiologist Service. It says: "**Quarterly monitoring and evaluation of X-Ray Units in the South and Eastern Provinces.**" I am worried because there are X-Ray Units in Freetown, but not in the

North and North-West. Why only specify the Southern and the Eastern Regions? Please, if it is an omission, look into it because Radiology, X-Ray Department everywhere needs to be monitored due to the fact that people working in X-Ray Department needs to be followed-up.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member?

HON. [DR] ABDULAI SESAY: Yes, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You are making a very pertinent observation. I hear replies from the other side saying, 'we do not have.' If you do not have, how can you monitor that which you do not have?

HON. [DR] ABDULAI SESAY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My humble plea to the Minister is that let the Budget continues to be nationalistic and let there be an equitable share of the national cake. That is all I am requesting for. I thank the President for appointing the new Chairman of the Medical Supplies Agency. This is something that is important and I want to say few words about it. The National Pharmaceutical Procurement Unit [NPPU] was disbanded simply because there was misappropriation of drugs and we had a lot of challenges with the supplies of our drugs in this country. When drugs were sent, we had a system known as Push System. This was not acceptable because you need a Pull System whereby you provide hospitals the facilities with drugs and supplies they need, instead of giving them what you want. That is why the NPPU was disbanded and the National Medical Supplies Agency [NMSA] was established. Thanks to God because the Chairman, Alhaji Muctarr Sesay, is an expert in the field of Pharmaceuticals. I want to thank the President for identifying such a good person, but what I want to say here is that government is spending huge sums of money to procure drugs for pregnant women and children. Unfortunately, some of these drugs do not reach the intended beneficiaries. There are people who are stealing these drugs for their personal benefits. We would like to work with the NMSA to ensure that the drugs that are procured and properly monitored. We have to ensure that the people receive the drugs that are meant for them. We want to see improvement in our health system.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, people lambasted the APC Government for not doing much. I want to highlight something here, so that we are not misled. We know exactly what we are doing. When I look at the new budget and the handing over notes of the former Minister of Health to the present Minister of Health, you will notice something. This is very serious because moneys meant for this country must be followed. We have to ensure that projects are executed properly *[Applause]*. The Emergency Ebola Response Project has a budget of **\$27Mln**. This was handed over, but how much was spent and how much remained? The people from the IPAQ will tell you that Health Service Development and Systems Strengthening Projects have **\$15.5Mln** and Regional Surveillance and Systems enhancement has **\$30Mln**. The three Tertiary Hospital Projects were funded by the Kuwait Fund to support the construction of the Waterloo Hospital, Macauley Hospital and the Lumley Hospital. I want to know if this Budget covers the construction of the Maternity Wings of these Hospitals. I would like the Ministry to help us with the appropriate information.

THE SPEAKER: I want to know if the Ministry of Health is represented here.

HON. DR ABDULAI SESAY: Mr Speaker, the world is listening. If they are not here, they will receive the message *[Applause]*. What I am saying is that these projects were funded by the Kuwaiti Fund. Why are we putting more moneys there?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. The Honourable Member is stating a very serious point, but he is also reading from a document which according to him is a handing over notes to the Ministry of Health. There is no way this House can ascertain.

THE SPEAKER: Order! This is a very important thing we are discussing.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker there is no way this House can ascertain whether the figures he is quoting from that document were indeed handed over to the Minister of Health. Therefore, I want to request the Ministry of Health to give us the handing over notes of the former Minister of Health. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I think we can do better than that. This is a very important issue that has been discussed. Honourable Members, we cannot treat this with any measure of levity. It concerns the health of this nation. I am really appalled in spite of the warning that I gave yesterday and the day before that we are today witnessing a debate and a Member is saying something very pertinent about the Ministry of Health and there is not a single representative from the Ministry of Health.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: If those of us on this side do not follow what the Speaker is saying or ensure that what we say is taken seriously, I think we will be talking to ourselves. In fact, we are showing the people of Sierra Leone that we want to move the 'New Direction' forward. He has raised issues of MRI Machine which I think it is very serious and I will discuss that with the Ministry. Cancer is indeed a very serious issue. He has spoken about donor funding and it is equally a serious issue. So, if they are not here to listen to us, it means we are just talking to ourselves. We assure you that when we get to the Committee of Supply, we will ensure that we do something about it. We have done it to Kenema City Council we will do same to any MDA, irrespective of what is happening. We are seeking the interest of the ordinary man and 'health,' they say, 'is wealth.' Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for recognising that *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, this matter is so important that we cannot let it pass. I want to raise two questions. The first question is that I know you have before you a document from which you have been sighting figures. Are you in the position to make that document available to us?

HON. DR ABDULAI SESAY: Yes, Mr Speaker. I will handover this document to you after my presentation. This is a Public document and it is not a sacred document. The former Minister of Health handed it to the present Minister of Health. So it is not a secret.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Once we obtain copies of that document from which he is making reference, we shall make it available to the Minister of Health and we will invite the Minister of Health to inform this House whether the figures quoted are supported or not. The second thing is that I will use my own discretion to allow the Honourable

Member to have a second bite on Monday in the presence of the officials of the Ministry. This is a very important issue. The third point I want to make is that the Oversight Committee on Health should take note, particularly the Chairman of that Oversight Committee. If the Chairman is here, we would like you to take note of the presentation made by the Honourable Member.

HON. MOSES B. JORKIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am really overwhelmed with the presentation made by Honourable Dr Abdul Sesay. It is not a surprise that this Ministry does not have a representation here today. I have tried to call them several times, but to no avail. So, that is the same thing they have done to us again today. While the Honourable Member was reporting on this particular issue, if they had come to answer to our call, then I do not think whether this would have come to this Well. The Honourable Member who is representing this issue is a Member of that Committee. He has this point which we would have discussed with them to give us vital information, but they have never answered to our call. I am taking note of what the Honourable Member has been saying. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Chairman of the Committee on Health. Honourable Member, let me say you have not heard the last word on this matter, but I would however ask you to conclude and hold yourself in readiness to repeat what you have just said on Monday *[Applause]*.

HON. DR ABDULAI SESAY: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON: MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I want to observe something.

THE SPEAKER: Please do, Honourable Member.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, you did say the government handed over billions of Dollars that are grants and if you look at Annex 4, it supports what the Honourable Member was saying. This is why the Minister of Health should be here as well. Please go to Annex 4 of the budget. We are not saying we did not receive, but those projects are ongoing. They are in Annex 4, but we will come to that. Thank you

very much for raising this issue up. These grants are stated in the budget. Thank you very much. I just want to add that the Minister should be summoned here.

THE SPEAKER: Let us assume the Minister is otherwise engaged, he has got senior officials who ought to be here. There is absolutely no excuse and we are not going to accept that as an excuse.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Mr Speaker, I am going to be very brief. You have continued to exhibit your fair play and objectivity in the deliberations of this House. However, I want to humbly plead with you that my Member of Parliament will be at liberty to further expand on this report on Monday. Thank you sir.

THE SPEAKER: I think I will accept that. I would say save your breath for now and I will give you the opportunity again on Monday to continue with your presentation.

HON. [DR] ABDULAI SESAY: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Give the Floor to the Honourable Paramount Chief. I am sorry Honourable Paramount Chief I cannot give you more than 15 minutes. So, please let us keep within that time limit.

HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. I think the Speech from the President and the Budget Speech are the key directives for this nation. I have been here since 1996. I have seen it all. On that note, I want to thank those who have concerns about the welfare of Sierra Leoneans. We are always approving men and women of repute in this Well. We have approved intellectuals, intelligentsia and bureaucrats, but where are we as a country? Are we bringing changes that are positive to make us a better nation in the world? I want to suggest and to bring something to the light. At any time they talk about Budget, I am not only reading what is been written by the Minister, but I go to the Budget profile. The Budget profile is the real essence of the Budget. It is the Budget profile that tells us where the money is coming from and where it is going. For instance, last night, I looked at the Budget profile, under Annex 1. It indicates the total amount of money for the year 2019. When you look at the Budget profile and in the most

advance countries like the United States of America, it has key indicators that when those indicators do not performed, then the country is in a recession. In this case, if I were to prepare the Budget profile, Agriculture should be paramount. What we are doing as a nation to improve Agriculture? In the USA, when the productivity of the Agricultural Sector is not performing, the Government subsidises. The USA usually subsidises over **\$50Bln** to the farmers because that is a key element in the development of their country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what are we manufacturing in this country? We do not produce salt, but we eat every day. We import salts, Maggi, onions and other condiments. I am not only talking about this Budget, but also what has happened since 1961. We should have manufacturing facilities that will produce shoes, clothes and textile. These are the things we look for in any Budget. How much money we are spending on rice and how much is allocated to Agriculture, so that we can stop the importation of rice. Mr Speaker, when you look at the Budget, I see nothing substantive from all other Budgets. I am not only talking about this Budget, I have the other budget statements from Momodu L. Kargbo. The same people that wrote this Budget for Momodu Kargbo, **90%** of them wrote this Budget again *[Applause]*. Is a rolling over and if you look at this current Budget, it goes up to 2021. Where are we, as a nation? The same people who wrote for the former Ministers of Finance, Mr Momodu Kargbo and Mr Kelfala Marah's Budgets are the same people who wrote this one. That means we are not progressing as a nation. If you look at the statistics here, it says: **"Income Tax Revenue for 2018 was 5.2% of GDP from this Budget."** They just transferred the same figures to this Budget. Please look at Domestic Revenue *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what is the contribution of Agriculture to the economy of Sierra Leone? I could remember when I was a very young boy.

THE SPEAKER: That was long time ago

HON. PC BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Indeed, it was in 1964. When the N'jala University was established, my father went there with me because it was an

Agricultural University. What is that University doing today to produce Agriculturalists other than people to sit in offices? We missed our priorities with all the intelligent and intellectuals people we have in this country. We cannot move this country forward and that is why we are still at the bottom of the Human Development Index.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to know what is the Mining Sector contributing to the Gross Domestic Production [GDP]. These are the issues we need to address as a nation and not as SLPP, APC or any other party. Again, what is happening in the Housing Industry? In the USA, when the Housing Industry is at stagnant position, they said recession. The Government would have to intervene to reduce the interest rate for people to borrow and purchase houses. Sierra Leone does not have that facility, but these are key indicators we should look out for. For instance, when the sales of cars reduce, through General Motors Acceptance Cooperation [GMAC], they will bring down the interest rate from **2.9%** to **2.1%** and people will rush.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, infrastructure is a very good project for Sierra Leone. When you look at where the Diamond Industry or Diamond Sector was or is and when you look at the road in Kono Districts for instance, Bumpeh, Tongo Field, etc. you will surprise to know that Diamonds have contributed greatly in the development of people in the world. Where are we as a nation? What happens with all the diamonds they took away? We do not even have a diamond industry that cut and polish diamonds in this country. This facility could add four times the prices to our diamonds. A diamond that could be bought here for **\$5,000**, after it has been polished, it could be sold at **\$70,000** to **\$75,000** in New York City. We produce what we do not consume and we consume what we do not produce. In fact, the clothes we wear are all imported. What do we do to develop the weaving of our Cotton Industry? I am happy to stand here and say that we need 'think tanks.' We should have people who think positively for the development of this country. We are putting intelligent people in offices, but they only go to protect what has been there without bringing new ideas. We need 'think tanks' for the development of the Economy of Sierra Leone.

THE SPEAKER: Or at least to think out of the box.

HON. P. C. BAI K. KANAGBARO: Exactly, Mr Speaker. Look at these young men at that time when they left Oxford University and went to Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand what they did? The prime Minister and all his cabinet were in one room with different tables, but everybody worked hard and change what Malaysia is today. Mr Speaker, you are an intellectual, you have been a Minister of Agriculture *[Applause]*. How many plantations did you leave at that time? Tormabom and Rombeh can produce so much rice, but we have failed to develop those areas. We are always here talking without action. We need to think out of the box and create new things.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, another key indicator that could have brought lots of benefits to Sierra Leone is Tourism *[Applause]*. Sometimes we tend to compare our tourist industry to that of Banjul. What are we doing about tourism? In fact, any time they appoint a Minister of Tourism, he thinks he is been punished *[Applause]*. Tourism is the biggest and most vital industry in the world. Even in the USA, people come from Atlanta to New York, Atlanta to Florida and Florida to California to create jobs and service industries. There are few hotels in Sierra Leone. Some of us have been to South Africa and other places around the world. Sometimes you are charged **\$200** to **\$300** per night.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Paramount Chief, I have no doubt that you have captured the rapt attention of the entire House, but I am afraid your time is up.

HON. PC BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III: Mr Speaker, I want to talk on one more issue. We need to develop our financial institutions; vis-à-vis, the Agricultural Banks and Investment Banks. These can provide moneys to the Private Sector. However, if you want to borrow money, you will be required to pay **25%** to **30%** interest. The question is, how are you going to invest when you pay such interest rate at an early stage? In the USA, when they give you money on the Small Business Administration [SBA], they give you up to five [5] years before you start paying. You will be given a grace period, so the Financial Institution Insurance Company [FIIC] and the Pension Funds must be developed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Energy is another area I would like to talk about. I want to however draw your attention to a very good observation in Paragraph 170 of Page 37. I think they brought confusion to many people, particularly to my brothers and sisters on the other side of the aisle. I think the sentence was not good enough to educate us. With the permission of the Speaker, it says: **"The European Union, Africa Development Bank, Department For International Development [DFID], Islamic Development Bank [IDB] and creative fund for the development have disbursed Le221.3Bln for the construction of the bridges and rehabilitation of Matotoka, Sefadu Road, Pendembu, Kailahun Road and Bo Bandajuma Road."**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, people are saying the Matotoka Roads has been completed. The Africa Development Bank [ADB] has paid almost **90%**, but the Government of Sierra Leone still holds the money to SALCOST and SALINING. Therefore, since Government is continuity, the same moneys have to be put in this budget and until they pay those moneys because they have nowhere to get the money other than from the Consolidated Fund *[Applause]*. We held a meeting two Sundays ago in Masingbi at the Quarry and the ADB representatives and SALCOST engineers were there. The SLRA representatives were also there. The argument came up and they complained that they even want to barricade the road because they have not even paid my people for the quarry. They did not pay and they have not even paid for the campsite and the bole pits. So, all these came up under this because it is project money and Government still owes some money. The roads have been completed, but they have not been officially handed over because Government and ADB had not paid in full *[Applause]*.

So, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the sentence was not clear. If you say Matotoka/Sefadu Road is **221.Bln**, people will say it has been completed, but technically it has not been handed over, and Government and ADB have not finished paying. They still owe them more than **Euro11Mln**, which they are complaining about. My people are also complaining for their payment. They have not paid them for the

campsite and also for the bole pit *[Applause]*. So, next time the English should be very clear. The sentence does not make sense when you read it until you know what is happening in practical terms.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask this Government to put 'think tanks' because we need over **\$2.5Bln** for the Free Quality Education. We need 'think tanks' who will work relentlessly for this country. I want to however state here that the entire Budget is less than a Billion Dollars. It is about approximately **\$852Mln**. I stand to be corrected, but the budget for Man United Football Club is more than the budget for Sierra Leone. Where are we as a Nation? I thank the 'New Direction' to prepare special budget for the implementation of the Free Quality Education. We need to procure school teaching and learning materials and even add more schools. I thank you *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Paramount Chief for his very constructive contribution. I am afraid the Honourable Paramount Chief is the last speaker for today. The Budget debate is generating a lot of interest, both in and out of this House. Within the House, you may want to know from the APC side, I have a list of no fewer than thirteen [13] Members of Parliament asking for the Floor. From the ruling SLPP party, I have no fewer than twelve [12] Members asking for the Floor. I see more hands going up from the Independent, C4C and NGC. So, what this means is that it is confirming the prediction I made at the beginning of today's sitting that we should braze ourselves for a very long sitting on Monday *[Applause]*. Remember not too long ago, you were good enough to exercise patience for over eleven hours in debating the three Instruments for the establishment of the Commissions of Enquiry. I can foresee another eleven hours session on Monday, if not more because I want to give everybody an opportunity to have his/her say on the very first completed Budget of the 'New Direction' Government of His Excellency President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. We do not want to leave any stone unturned.

Lastly, Honourable Members, I do not know what the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health was doing, he waited until we summon him at the very last minute to appear in the House. Is he here or has he walked out again?

HON. ALUSINE KANNEH: Mr Speaker, I have asked him to wait.

THE SPEAKER: We want him in the Well.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Permanent Secretary, would you please come forward and tell this House why you did not come or send a representative to the debate on the Budget?

MR DAVID BANYA [*Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health*]: Good afternoon Mr Speaker and Honourable Members of Parliament. I just returned to Sierra Leone this morning because I was out of the country.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let us listen to him.

MR DAVID BANYA: I was representing the Minister of Health and Sanitation in Qatar, where there was a conference on health. I came this morning and I asked my Deputy who was acting in my capacity and he told me he was not aware whether people should turn up for the debate. I told him that a debate on the national budget requires Vote Controllers to present. I am here now for the debate. He was not here yesterday, but I know it is a requirement and that is why I am here. I am very sorry Honourable Members. It was due to my absence, otherwise I know the requirement and I have always been here [*Applause*].

THE SPEAKER: Mr Permanent Secretary, you have just narrowly escaped contempt of this House, but please continue to admonish your officials that when you and your Ministers are away, they are supposed to represent you at all levels. Honourable Members, due to the explanation of the Permanent Secretary, which I consider to be satisfactory, I will say he has just narrowly escaped [*Applause*].

MR DAVID BANYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker and Honourable Members.

THE SPEAKER: We will adjourn the House to Monday and serious issues have come up that concern your Ministry. We want you here on that day.

MR DAVID BANYA: I will come, Mr Speaker.

HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO: Mr Speaker, I think you are trying very hard to manage time and to give us an opportunity to take part effectively in the deliberation. We on this side want to see you continue to do a very good job. Therefore, we have come to the conclusion, taking into consideration the difficulties surrounding the timing of speakers, this side therefore asks that we extend the debate to five allotted days *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, I take note of what you have said, but I think it is premature for me to take a decision on that. Let us come on Monday and deliberate on that. The Standing Orders provide for five days, but we took a decision here at the beginning to shorten the period from five to four days. Let us give it a try, but we will wait till Monday. If in the process we come to the conclusion that we need an extra day, then so it shall be. We would take a decision there and then, but let us not pre-judge that issue now. Let us wait till Monday.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 1:15 p.m. and was adjourned to Monday, 19th November, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.]