



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**SECOND SESSION - FIRST MEETING**

**THURSDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2019**

*SESSION – 2019/2020*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

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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 Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.

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THE MINISTER OF FINANCE



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

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

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

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**Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.**

**I. PRAYERS**

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

*[The House met at 10:30 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]*

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

The House was called to Order

*Suspension of S.O 5[2]*

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to amend item III on the Order Paper to read thus, Honourable Bashiru Silikie should replace Honourable Hassan A. Sesay.

**THE SPEAKER:** Very well. We shall proceed with the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> of May, 2019.

**II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2019.**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE SPEAKER:** As usual, we shall skip pages 1 to 4 and start from Page 5. Do you have any observations, amendments or comments on Page 5? Honourable Members, I am curious to know why we have many empty seats.

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Mr Speaker, I am sure they are preparing for the Red Thursday Sir *[Laughter]*.

**HON. SIRAJIN ROLLINGS-KAMARA:** What is the question again, Mr Speaker?

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, I rely on you and as a Rabbi, you will always tell the truth.

**HON. SIRAJIN ROLLINGS-KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, I do not tell lies.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you. Why are there so many empty seats on your side?

**HON. SIRAJIN ROLLINGS-KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, it is because they are absent and that is the basic truth.

**THE SPEAKER:** May I ask one stupid question? Why are they absent? Do you know why they are absent?

**HON. SIRAJIN ROLLINGS-KAMARA:** If the Deputy Leader of Government Business is now a Member of the Opposition and he wants to respond I will be obliged Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, he is not.

**HON. SIRAJIN ROLLINGS-KAMARA:** Normally, just as you pleaded that if they would ever make you start on time at 10:00 a.m. you will give them something, just to tell you that it has become a norm that people come late to Parliament and today is not an exception.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, never tell any untruth and I will accept your explanation. You are a true Rabbi. I have just seen one Senior Member. Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, I have a word or two to say about that when we get to that point. I do not like to cross bridges when we have not reached there.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** I am not part of those who have been coming late.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay! You do not have the Floor and please switch off your microphone. Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? If there is no correction or amendment, could somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceeding for the parliamentary sitting, held on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 as presented?

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

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. OSMAN W. JALLOH:** I do second Sir.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting held on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 has been adopted as presented]*

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

PROPOSER: HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS

SECONDER: HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Leader of Government Business, one thing you can say about Honourable Daniel B. Koroma is that he is always punctual and I believe he is the only one seated.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise on S.O 82 to suspend S.O. 11[8] because of certain challenges.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder to the Motion?

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, I second the Motion.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[Motion to suspend S.O 11[8] has been carried]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, today is an exceptional day. I can see both the lower and upper galleries are full and there are also visitors seated in the Well of the House. For the benefit of those who do not understand what is happening, I want it to clearly understood that our Parliament is a hung Parliament. What that means is that, the Government side does not have a majority, so most of our proceedings here are characterised by dialogue and consultations for us to ensure that there is a smooth deliberations. So, when you see leaders of political parties moving to the Speaker's seat for consultations, I want you to understand why those consultations are taking place. This is why we are rated as an exception to the general rule of hung Parliaments. Generally, hung Parliaments are characterised by rancour, disagreements, walkouts and other acrimonious activities. Mercifully, we have skilfully avoided any of those. So, it is the exception rather than the rule. Those who did not understand before, I hope with that clarification, you now have a clear understanding of what is happening.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the First Report of the Second Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on Parliamentary Vetting of Presidential Nominations.

## *1. Introduction*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service is responsible for vetting Presidential Nominees to select the most fitted.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hold on. Honourable Carew, I overheard you and that was why we have invoked S.O. 82 [*Undertone*].

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, some of those statements are not meant for your hearing. Let us make progress Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Well, the Honourable Member was thinking aloud.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Thank you, Leader of the Opposition.

**THE SPEAKER:** Next time when you think aloud, make sure I do not hear.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and Public Service is responsible for vetting Presidential Nominees and select the most fitted and qualified persons to serve in public offices. The Committee interviewed nineteen presidential nominees for appointments for the following positions:

[i] Two Ministers;

[ii] Two Deputy Ministers;

[iii] Two Ambassadors;

[iv] Chairman, National Commission for Privatisation;

[v] Three Members, Local Government Finance Committee;

[vi] Two Members, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Produce Monitoring Board;

[vii] Two Members, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority;

[viii] Two Members, Board of Directors-Sierra Leone Local Content Agency;

[ix] Member, National Commission for Privatization;

[x] Member, Board of Directors-Sierra Leone Local Content Agency; and

[xi] Director-General, HIV and AIDS Secretariat.

## 2. *Procedure*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee conducted its hearing within the ambit of its established criteria to solicit facts as to whether the nominees were fit and

qualified for their proposed appointments. Pursuant to its established procedure, the Committee was guided by the principle of objectivity to the extent that beside perusing the specified documents provided by the nominees, Members went further to request for public inputs into the vetting process to ascertain the suitability of the nominees for their proposed appointments.

The Committee ensured that the nominees were cleared of any criminal records by the Criminal Investigation Department [CID] and that they had the relevant qualifications and necessary backup experience to man such important offices of state. Probing questions put to the nominees covered wide ranging issues pertaining to their track records in other pertinent work situations, their declared assets and liabilities, fulfilment of their tax obligations to the state and their visions for a successful and nationally productive tenure.

*3. [First Sitting of the Committee on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2019]*

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

*[i] Dr Edward Hinga Sandy, proposed Minister, Trade and Industry.*

Dr Edward Hinga Sandy is a Professional Bio-Chemist with proven work experience in Environmental Impact Assessment and Climate Change Managements. He is currently the Deputy Minister of Water Resources.

Responding to probing questions, Dr Edward Hinga Sandy said: **“At the Trade and Industry Ministry, if approved by this Honourable House, I intend to reorganise what is happening currently by doing some restructuring and repositioning of the manpower to ensure that the main objectives for which the Ministry was established is achieved.”** Recognising the imminent role play by this Ministry, the nominee said he would work closely with other line ministries to ensure that the basic demands of the populace are met.”

*[ii] Mr David Sengo Woobay, proposed member, Local Government Finance Committee.*

Mr David Sengo Woobay is a politician and a retired Civil Servant of high pedigree. From 1992 to 2001, he served the National Sports Council as Director of Sports; and from 2004 to 2012, he also served as Chairman, Moyamba District Council.

Answering to inquiring questions on his roles on the Board if approved by this Honourable House, Mr David Sengo Woobay said: **“As a member of the Local Finance Committee, having served in Council as Chairman for eight years, one of my functions is to recommend to the Ministry of Finance for approval, the budgetary allocations which have been formulated by the Technical Committee in the Local Government Finance Department. I will also superintend over the quality service delivery and prudent utilisation of funds and ensure that the core staffs who are supposed to be devolved to Councils are absorbed as soon as possible.”**

Mr Woobay opined: **“Because staff devolved to Councils do not really think they owe any obligation to the Local Councils since they are not directly paid by the Local Government, steps would be taken to address these anomalies.”**

*[iii] Hon. P.C. Bai Seboru Kasanga II, proposed Member, Local Government Finance Committee*

Honourable P.C. Bai Seboru Kasanga II is a former Member of Parliament and an elected Paramount Chief of no mean standing. Honourable Paramount Chief Bai Kasanga II was praised across party lines for his diligence and dedication to national service. The Committee expressed confidence in his ability to do well in his proposed position and wished him well.

*[iv] Mr Habib Thorpe, proposed Member, Local Government Finance Committee*

Mr Habib Thorpe is a Social Worker with sound working knowledge in Rural and Community Development. From 2013 to 2015, he served as the Chairman, Passion for Development Organisation [PaDO], a Community Based Organisation in Sierra Leone.

Mr Habib Thorpe promised to work with colleague Board Members to ensure that Local Government Finance Committee recommends to Government prioritised projects and

programmes within the Councils that need urgent attentions and finances. He further stated that the Committee will put in place stringent monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for such programmes and projects to ensure value for money.

*[v] Mr Sheriff Abass Sesay, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Produce Marketing Board*

Mr Sheriff Abass Sesay is a Procurement Specialist with an adept working knowledge in Public Administration and Management. From 1997 to 1999, he served the Statistics Council, Sierra Leone as a Data Collection Officer. He assured the Committee that he would help to formulate good policies that would ensure sustainable export of agricultural products to attract foreign exchange earnings that would lead to rapid economic growth.

*[vi] Mrs Amie Moriba, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Produce Marketing Board.*

Mrs Amie Moriba is a veteran Social Worker with skills in Psychosocial Analysis, Guidance and Counselling. From 1979 to 1990, she served as a Community Development Worker in the Ministry of Social Welfare and Rural Development.

The Committee admonished her to work in the best interest of the public by collaborating with colleague Board Members to provide better policy guidelines that would ensure that Farmers and Produce Buyers have mutually exclusive benefits.

*[vii] Mr Francis Dennis Ganda, proposed Member, Board of Director, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority.*

I am sure he is not around.

*[viii] Mrs Amy Elizabeth Green, proposed Member, National Commission for Privatisation.*

Mrs Amy Elizabeth Green is a certified and Professional Corporate Administrator with several years of work experience in Corporate Administration and Governance. She also possesses practical work skills in managing businesses efficiently for profit making. She

is currently serving as a joint Owner and Managing Partner for the Foresees Consultant Limited in Sierra Leone.

Responding to probing questions about the need for privatisation, Mrs Elizabeth Amy Green said: **"It depends on the sector in which the enterprise is. If some sectors do not perform, it is good to privatise them, believing that it would turn around the fortune of the company, but then you need to have the right person in place. There are some sectors like water and electricity which are social sectors, which I do not think should be privatised at least not in whole, but in part because it cuts across everyone; the poor, the rich, young, men and women, and it is an essential service that the Government is supposed to provide for its citizens. Usually, the privatisation prices go up so if you are providing a social service it is best for Government to control in order to minimise losing money"**.

*[x] Madam Emma Sombo Banya, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Petroleum Regulatory Agency.*

Madam Emma Sombo Banya is a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Sierra Leone. She is currently serving as the Managing Partner, E.S. Banya & Co, Legal Firm at 71 Berwick Street, Freetown.

Reacting to probing questions, Madam Emma Banya said: **"The Petroleum Sector projects are complex, high risk investment which requires a carefully drafted regulatory framework that combines sustainable economic development for investors, consumers and impacts the nation as a whole. It was against this background that the Petroleum Regulatory Act was passed in 2014 to arbitrate petroleum sector projects. The Board was established by the Act to provide policy guide lines to the Agency and to ensure that the rules and frame work set by the Act are adhered to. As a lawyer on the Board, I will endeavour to give the needed legal advice to the Agency when entering any contractual agreements to ensure the unnecessary loss of money by**

**Government and to protect both the consumer and investors' interest in the downstream sector projects."**

[x] Dr Kelvin Fredrick Esebewa Anderson, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Local Content Agency.

Dr Kelvin Fredrick Esebewa Anderson is a Geologist and Survey expert with vast knowledge in airborne and geophysical survey. He is currently serving as the Deputy Director General, National Minerals Agency [NMA].

Answering to questions on how he intends to propagate the Local Content Policy, Mr Kelvin Anderson said: **"I think my background as a Lecturer and a Geologist has shown that most of the companies would rather employ foreigners than our local people and the main reason they give is the lack of expertise. So, I think I will work closely with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security to promote skills and technology transfer programmes to schools and training colleges in order to build the capacity of young people to adequately compete with foreigners."**

[xi] Mr Abdul Rahman Chernor Sesay, proposed Director General, National HIV and AIDS Secretariat.

Mr Abdul Rahman Chernor Sesay is a specialist in Public Health and Population Studies. In addition to his proven capacity and experience in designing and managing programmes, he has in-depth knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS Programmes, having served this organisation for seventeen years, He is currently serving as Deputy Director General, National HIV/AIDS Secretariat.

Addressing the Committee on the current prevalent rate of HIV and AIDS in the country, Mr Abdul Rahman Sesay said: **"The prevalent rate of HIV and AIDS has stabilised at 1.5% after serious interventions by the Secretariat and may even go lower, depending on the outcome of the Demographic and Health Survey currently conducted by Statistics Sierra Leone."** He promised to use his expertise to develop the Secretariat.

*4. Second Sitting of the Committee on Tuesday, 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2019.*

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

*[i] Honourable Foday Rado Yokie, proposed Minister, Mines and Minerals Resources.*

Honourable Foday Rado Yokie is a Politician and an Entrepreneur of high pedigree. From June, 2018 to date, he has served as the Special Trade Envoy of the Government of Sierra Leone, responsible to globally present Sierra Leone as a suitable investment destination to potential investors.

Answering to probing questions, Honourable Foday Rado Yokie said: **"I have been in the Mining sector for ten years now. I know almost everything about the mining industry and with this knowledge and experience, I will ensure that the people of this country benefit greatly from the mineral resources. I will also work in accordance with the President's manifesto and ensure that the goals of the 'New Direction' are achieved."**

*[ii] Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma [Esq.], proposed Deputy Minister of Justice.*

Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma [Esq.] is a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Sierra Leone and a Senior Partner of Berewah and Co. Solicitors, Mahiteh Chambers. From June 2018 to date, he served as Chairman of the National Commission for Privatisation. Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma Esq is also currently serving as the National Secretary General for the Sierra Leone People's Party [SLPP].

Responding to the Committee's inquiries on reforms in the Judiciary of Sierra Leone, Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma said: **"I consider my appointment as very tasking and challenging because we know that access to justice, especially regarding the limited number of judges leading to backlog of cases, delay of justice is a problem in the Judiciary. I will use my ten years' experience at the Bar to reform the Judiciary and the Justice Sector."**

Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma, further underscored problems of fair Justice, limited number of Judges in the Judiciary resulting to higher number of case files per-Judges and the general delay of Justice. He promised that he would actualise the aspiration of His Excellency the President and the New Direction Government to improve on these anomalies and make Sierra Leone a better country to attract investors.

*[iii] Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara proposed Deputy Minister, Information and Communications.*

Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara is a Communication Consultant with extensive skills in Outreach Strategy and Systems for Managing Information. She is currently the communications specialist, Energy Sector Utility Reform Project [ESUR] in the Ministry of Energy.

Answering to inquiry questions on her inputs in the Ministry, Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara said: **“I will ensure that the Ministry’s strategic vision and mission are disseminated to all Sectors of Society in a bid to bring to fruition the New Direction Agenda.”**

*[iv] Dr Morie Komba Manyeh, proposed High Commissioner to London, the United Kingdom and Ireland*

Dr Morie Komba Manyeh is an Educationist, Researcher and Politician of no mean standing. From 2005 to 2009, he served as the Capacity Building Consultant of the Sababu Education Project in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports [MEYS], Sierra Leone. Until his recent appointment, Dr Morie Manyeh served as the Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources.

Addressing the Committee on his aspirations, Dr Morie Manyeh said: **“I feel honoured that I am going to represent my country. If I am approved by this Honourable House, I will improve on the bilateral relationship with the United Kingdom, which is a big player. So, I have the responsibility to improve on the long existing friendship between the two countries. I will take to the United Kingdom what I brought to the Ministry of Mines and**

**Mineral Resources and I will also take commitment, integrity, honour and what it takes to make Sierra Leone fly high in the international forum.”**

*[v] Mr Alhaji Fanday Turay, proposed Chairman, National Commission for Privatisation.*

Mr Alhaji Fanday Turay is a Barrister and Solicitor of high pedigree. He was commissioned into the Sierra Leone Armed Forces in 1990 and served in various capacities until his retirement as Colonel in 2011. He also served as the Military Adviser to the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations in New York.

Responding to probing questions, Mr Alhaji Fanday Turay said: **“I believe that I have the guts to recommend for the liquidation of any Public Corporation that does not work according to the rules and regulation. I am coming in with over fourteen years’ experience of being a Lawyer and I have also practiced not only within Sierra Leone, but within other Jurisdictions. In addition to this, I had the opportunity to work within the United Nation’s system. I want to bring some of those practices to see how best it can work with the approval of this Honourable House.”** Mr Alhaji Fanday Turay concluded that the main purpose of divestitures was to help Government effectively and efficiently manage public intuitions.

*5. Third Sitting of the Committee on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2019.*

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

*[i] Dr Alie S. Kabba, proposed Permanent Representative, Sierra Leone Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York.*

Dr Alie S. Kabba is a seasoned diplomat with professional experience in Public Policy Analysis, Administration, Strategic Planning and Programme Management. From June 2018 to May 2019, he served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Responding to the Committee on his mission to the United Nations, Dr Alie S. Kabba said: **“I am grateful for the confidence reposed in me by His Excellency the**

**President. My main mission to the United Nations would be to actualise His Excellency the President's vision of giving Africa two permanent seats at the United Nations Security Council. As you are aware, His Excellency the President is the current Chairman of the C-10 of African countries responsible to articulate Africa's position at the United Nations. I will achieve this goal through consultative meetings with Governments in Africa to help buttress Africa's standing in the United Nations."**

Dr Alie S. Kabba further said that he would present Sierra Leone's case to the United Nations and would ensure the country moves from a 'least developed' to a middle income Country.

*[ii] Mrs Marie F. Kabba, proposed Member, Board of Director Petroleum Regulatory Agency.*

Mrs Marie Kabba is a Financial Management Specialist. She possesses skills in Quantitative and Strategic Management. From February 1994 to December 2016, she served as Manager at Union Trust Bank Limited.

Mrs Marie Kabba assured the Committee that she will work in the best interest of the Country. She said: **"Petroleum products are very important commodities that need to be controlled by Government to ensure that the public has access to it. I will work in the best interest of the country to ensure that all stakeholders [Consumers and Suppliers] concerns are addressed swiftly by the Board."**

*[iii] Mr Anthony Fonnio, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority.*

Mr Anthony Fonnio is Procurement Specialist with wealth of experience in Administration and Management. He is currently serving as the Chief Executive Officer of SEWAMA investment in Kenema, Eastern Sierra Leone.

Mr Anthony Fonnies promised to work in the best interest of Sierra Leone by working assiduously with colleague Board members to put the country on the map in the Aviation Industry.

### *6. Recommendation[s].*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following presidential nominees to be fit and qualified for their proposed appointments and therefore recommends to this House for their approval:

[i] Mr Edward Hinga Sandy, proposed Minister, Trade and Industry;

[ii] Hon. Foday Rado Yokie, proposed Minister, Mines and Mineral Resources;

[iii] Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma, proposed Deputy Minister, Attorney General and Minister of Justice;

[iv] Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara, proposed Deputy Minister, Information and Communications;

[v] Dr Morie Komba Manyeh, proposed High Commissioner to London, United Kingdom and Ireland;

[vi] Dr Alie S. Kabba, proposed, Permanent Representative, Sierra Leone Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York;

[vii] Mr Alhaji Fanday Turay, proposed Chairman, National Commission for Privatisation;

[viii] Mr David Sengo Woobay, proposed Member, Local Government Finance Committee;

[ix] Hon. P.C. Bai Sebor Kasanga II, proposed Member, Local Government Finance Committee;

[x] Mr Habib Thorpe, proposed Member, Local Government Finance Committee;

[xi] Mr Anthony Fonnies, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority;

[xii] Mrs Marie Kabba, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Petroleum Regulatory Agency;

[xiii] Mr Sheriff Abass Sesay, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Produce Monitoring Board;

[xiv] Mrs Amie Moriba, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Produce Marketing Board;

[xv] Mrs Amy Elizabeth Greene, proposed Member, National Commission for Privatisation;

[xvi] Madam Emma Sombo Banya, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Petroleum Regulatory Agency;

[xvii] Dr Kelvin Fredrick Esebewa Anderson, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Local Content Agency; and

[xviii] Mr Abdul Rahman Chernor Sesay, proposed Director General, HIV and AIDS Secretariat.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the First Report portrays the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the First 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 SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Leader of Government Business. Any seconder?

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, I so second

*[Question Proposed]*

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have nominees presented to this House by his Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio for approval. The nominees went through interviews before they will finally take their various offices. I want to state here that when Members of Parliament summon you, you have to respond positively. If they call you on phone, please answer your calls or if they visit your offices, do not hesitate to open your doors and welcome them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure the nominees are going to be approved by this Parliament. We have the powers to provide oversight for your institutions. I am

going to assure you that the various Committees that are going to be responsible for your Ministries, Departments and Agencies [MDAs] will do due diligence to this Parliament. I am aware of the fact that we have very good nominees and I hope they will not disappoint us. I am saying this because when we were campaigning, we had a social contract between ourselves as a Government and the people of this Republic that we will deliver. The President has always said that excuses are not going to be tolerated, we are going to deliver and we must deliver. The nominees appointed by His Excellency the President are going to steer the ship. We have four years left and we have to read our score cards to the people of this country. Of course, we are going to get our second term, our third term and our fourth term etc. *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will start with the Secretary General of the Sierra Leone People's Party. He signed my nomination form to the National Electoral Commission *[Applause]*. His name is Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma. He is a fine gentleman from Koinadugu District and he is the youngest Secretary General that has form Government in less than one year when he assumed that position. He is a progressive man and he is a man with insight. He is a man that can lead the way for the young people. There are many young Members of Parliament on this side and that is partly the handiwork of Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma. We are grooming him because he is the future of our party and this country *[Applause]*. I have no doubt in him and he will deliver the justice sector for the people of Sierra Leone. I want to remind him that a lot is expected from him and I hope he will not disappoint us.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, be rest assured that the signature on the next of your nomination paper is already assured *[Laughter]*.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me talk about my 'Kotor,' Honourable Foday Rado Yokie. If I can confidently stand here today, I owe that to Honourable Foday Rado Yokie *[Applause]*. When we came to this Parliament in 2012, it was difficult for some of us to speak. He gave us a lot of inspiration, not just to us, but even with the ruling party then. A lot of young parliamentarians depended on his ideas. He used to tell us that we would

definitely win the 2018, but some of us were not sure. He kept reminding us that the 2018 Elections would be won by the SLPP. He reposed confidence in us and today, we are on this side. Honourable Foday Rado Yokie, I am your shadow Deputy Minister *[Applause]*. The ideas you have provided us are the ideas we are using here today. I thank you very much and we will not disappoint you. Today, Honourable Umar Paran Umar Tarawally is now the Clerk of Parliament. I can remember vividly when you used to give us jottings and encouraged us. You gave us the spirit of speaking in this Parliament and today, we occupy the front row of this House. I thank you very much and we wish you well in your new assignment. We know you are an expert in the Mineral Sector. In our previous oversight, you used to take a pivotal role in the discussions. I am very confident that there is nothing you do not know about the mineral sector and you are very versatile. You are an economist, but you will be going to the Mineral Sector if this House approved your nomination. We pray that you change that Ministry for the good of us all. The success of the 'New Direction' depends on your ability to positively revive that Sector. You know how much you have suffered to bring this Government to where we are.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to the iron lady from Bo, Madam Amie Moriba *[Applause]*. If you look at the gallery, the women of Bo District are represented here. She gave me a tough time for the symbol, but thank God I am here today. Madam Amie Moriba took the position of Women's Leader at a point when several women from the South were shying away from that position. It was a difficult challenge because we were in opposition and we know how difficult it was. There were no funds, but she encouraged the women to stand firm with the SLPP. You delivered the Bo District to the SLPP with a **95%**. I thank you very much *[Applause]*. We hope you will do the same at the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board *[SLPMB]*. I have no doubt that you will deliver. You have suffered for the 'New Direction' and the President will count on your ability to deliver. If you fail, it means you have failed the entire Bo District and the President. We want you to encourage everybody to work as a team. Please work the

way you have worked with the women of Bo, so that you and the Board members will deliver the SLPMB.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not know Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara personally, but her name is a household name. When I was young boy, I used to listen to United Nations [UN] Radio. I can see the media here today. They are fully represented and I want to thank you very much and that is what the 'New Direction' does. We are giving positions to people who can deliver. I call on the media to support her because if she delivers, it means your support has also helped her. A lot is expected of you and definitely four years down the line, what you will do is what we will present to this Parliament and to the people of this country as our scorecard.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Morie Komba Manyeh, proposed High Commissioner to London, United Kingdom and Ireland. He was my Lecturer and today is my second time standing here to talk about him. Of course, he is a diplomat and when he was nominated to serve as Minister, I said this man is very good to be a diplomat and he should have been nominated as an Ambassador. Thank you very much His Excellency the President for your foresight. I believe that is his field and I am sure he will strengthen the bilateral relationship between us and the British Government. I wish you well and we hope that you will deliver for His Excellency and the SLPP, so that our brothers over there will continuously and permanently be on that side *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Edward Hinga Sandy. From the position of Deputy Minister of Water Resources to a full time Minister, I think the President has a lot of confidence in you and please do not disappoint him. You have been elevated and you should live up to his expectations. The President is expecting a lot from you as well as this Parliament. Your door should be open to Members of Parliament at all time. There is an oversight Committee on Trade and Industry and you should work with that Committee assiduously. This is because all of us have the same dreams to deliver this country. Thank you very much and I thank the President for nominating you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will end my contribution with Mr Alhaji Fanday Turay. S.O. 2 'Mi Na Soja Pikin'. Rtd Colonel Alhaji Fanday Turay as he is commonly

called at Wilberforce Barracks is a very strong man and a disciplinarian. For some of us who grew up around the barracks, Alhaji Fanday Turay is a disciplinarian who nobody in the military will dare to mess-up. We expect a lot from him. I was part of the Committee that interviewed him and I asked a question. I drew your attention to the unhealthy relationship between the NCP Chair and some ministries, especially the Ministries of Information, Transports and Water Resources. Please meander your way into that difficulty and try to solve that impasse. There are more than twelve parastatals you are providing oversight for, but the Ministers are always Ministers. You should work together as a team because all of us have one vision. We campaigned on the mantra of 'New Direction' and we should work towards ensuring the success of the 'New Direction.' I wish Colonel Alhaji Fanday Turay and the other nominees well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I cannot call everybody by name, but the President has reposed so much confidence in all of you and we hope you will not disappoint us. This is because after the five years mandate, the Members of Parliament would have to face the bullet and we will have to explain to the people what you have been doing. Therefore, if you succeed, we will succeed; but if you fail, they will have to vote us out of this Parliament. We will suffer and we will be the greatest losers if you failed. I am saying this because we are the ones the people voted for and the people always have to vote for us. You will never face the electorate. Your duty is to follow the President on his tours. Our faces are on the ballot papers. Please, do not disappoint us and respect Members of Parliament. Nobody is going to your offices to beg, but to discuss issues bothering on the welfare of the state. When you are coming here for interviews, you ask us for favours and we did not even interview some of you. We give a lot of preference to you and please respect Members of Parliament. They will be knocking at your doors to chat the way forward. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I would have liked to allow you to catch my eye, but we parted on the wrong note yesterday. Are you sure today is a different day? Let me continue to contemplate while I recognise Honourable Hassan A. Sesay.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are going through a process which is not new in the House of Parliament; but as the saying goes, charity begins at home. Mr Speaker, when I said charity begins at home, I am sure you can easily guess the person I want to start with.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I would like to remind you that we have two Bills to pass today and the time is already 11:40 a.m. Honourable Bashiru Silikie took nearly twenty minutes. So, there has to be judicious use of our time. I would want to limit every speaker to just five minutes because I have seen quite a number of Members of Parliament wishing to catch my eyes.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like I said earlier, 'charity begins at home.' We have somebody who was a Member of Parliament, but he has been elevated in the Executive Branch. We use to joke here and called ourselves comrades. He told us he would come here, but in the capacity as member of the Executive Branch *[Applause]*. The significant part of that relationship was that they were on the other side and we were on the other side. We have however been working together. We were here as brothers and sisters, and because of that, we looked at him as part of us and his issues were our issues. We believe our issues will be his issues *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope the other nominees who are for approval will not be envious of what I am saying, but we shared a common background that is why I will give him preference. Notwithstanding the fact that he is 'Paopa' and I am 'Tolongbo,' it does not matter *[Laughter]*. He has been my comrade, a brother and a workmate. We will always have our differences politically, but we will always remain to be the same people that we are *[Applause]*. That also speaks to the fact that politics is only a game and we have to live beyond politics. Let us look at ourselves as political opponent, but not enemies. If we begin to think that way, I am sure this country will move forward. I am talking to all the politicians, not only Members on that side or on my side, but let it be known that politics is not a life and death issue. I am sure other

Members of Parliament shower accolades on this man. However, I think what I have said speaks volumes about this man and how we think about him.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma, proposed Deputy Minister, Attorney General and Minister of Justice. I would have showered praises and accolades on the former Secretary General of the SLPP, but I am sure Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma deserves it as well. I hope the role of a Secretary General will be left in the office and work for Sierra Leone instead of the SLPP *[Applause]*. We hope that there will be sanity in the justices system once you are approved *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I used to know Mr Alhaji Fanday Turay as a soldier, but he has now metamorphosed into somebody else. However, 'once a soldier is always a soldier.' I believe once a disciplined soldier will always remain disciplined. We expect that if this House approves your nomination, you will instil discipline and introduce robust reforms in that institution. It is a very controversial institution, but I trust your ability to manage situations. I am sure you know how to handle crisis and you will also do same for the furtherance of that institution. Please find amicable solutions to the numerous challenges inherent in that institution. I expect you to perform for Sierra Leone and not for the party.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will now talk about Dr Morie Manyeh. I think he has had too much. He was here to be approved as a Minister and we endorsed him. Today, we have to endorse you again, so that you can go to England and serve your countrymen as expected of you. We have been friends for quite a long time and I always respect you as my 'kortor.' I have always respected you and I believe your sense of commitment to duty will always be the watch word wherever you find yourself.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara. I will be doing a disservice to her if I conclude without saying something about her. We normally say ladies first, but today I said earlier that charity begins at home and that was why I started with Honourable Foday Rado Yokie. However, Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara is not new in public life. She is not new in the world of information and if this House approves your nomination, you will deliver. You are going to work with somebody I

usually call my younger brother. I know he is a fine gentleman and if you work as a team, we expect positive results. Remember that there is always a tenuous relationship between the Ministers and their Deputies and no matter how friendly you are, those who have experience know what I am talking about. It takes somebody with ability to ensure that you work well with your deputy. We are not expecting any feud between both of you. I want to admonish you to ensure that the goals you set for yourself are achieved in that Ministry. I wish you all the best. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution and for keeping to the time allotted to him. I would have wished Members on the front seats would have at least allowed the others to have a little bit before I call on them.

**HON. SHERIFF M. RAHMAN-COKER:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today is another important day in this House because we have very important personalities who have been nominated by His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. They are here this morning, seeking parliamentary approval. Let me thank His Excellency the President for giving these nominees the opportunity to serve this Nation. I am sure they are going to work to ensure that the 'New Direction Agenda' succeeds *[Applause]*. Let me take this opportunity to [on behalf of my colleagues], extend our hearty congratulations to all the nominees. I am sure if approved by this House, you will work in the best interest of the people of this country *[Applause]*. I can sense your determination to support this Government. I want to remind you that before you were brought to this House for the plenary's approval, you went through the Committee on Appointments. You were interviewed on wide ranging issues and based on the recommendations of that Committee, I am sure this House will not delay your approval *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure the President is very serious and determined to transform this country. This is why since the commencement of the Fifth Parliament of the Second Republic, all nominees brought to this House for approval were qualified and fit for their various offices *[Applause]*. We have started seeing the results and for any Government to be successful, you must have strong, good and

serious administrators. We need people who are willing, ready and able to work under any condition to transform this country. This is what the President is doing to bring people who are ready to work in the best interest of all. Among the nominees seated here this morning Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some of them have gone through this same process few months back, like Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma, Dr Alie S. Kabba and others. So, I do not need to spend much time talking about them here because their performances in their previous positions will definitely determine their approval *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start with a very important personality among the nominees, Honourable Foday Rado Yokie *[Applause]*. He was a former Member of Parliament in this House. He represented the people of constituency 068 now 088 in Bo District. He is a vibrant, trustworthy and very hardworking young man who has more to give to society through this portfolio as Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources. Honourable Foday Rado Yokie has a lot of experience in Administration, especially in the areas of representation, law making and oversight. His Curriculum Vitae has already substantiated him as a man who is fit for that office *[Applause]*. I want this House to know that with the approval of this appointment, he will fully engage the entire Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources to ensure quality service delivery *[Applause]*. With his timely nomination by the President, I strongly believe that his vast experience will help to pave the way for sustainable development in Sierra Leone. Moreover, I believe this has shown a balance in representation by having a former Honourable Member of Parliament to serve in position of trust. I am confident to say that the Honourable Foday Rado Yokie has the mettle to take up responsibility as a Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources. We the people of constituency 131, especially the Aberdeen community will like to thank the President for this appointment and we are looking forward to more appointments in future.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to crave your indulgence to speedily approve these fine nominees, so that they can join the working team of His Excellency the

President to transform this country. Mr Speaker, S.O 2 'Paopa Salone for beteh.' I thank you all *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I now wish to recognise Honourable Lahai Marah.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are here performing our normal duties. Some of them have been here before and we vetted them. They went through the scrutiny process, but the President has the power to hire and fire. This is why despite the rigorous vetting process some of them went through, the President fired the Minister of Local Government. The President was saying to a very large extent that we were wrong. We were also wrong when we approved the Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Alie S. Kabba for that position. Dr Alie S. Kabba has now been nominated to the position of Permanent Representative to the UN. Again, we were also wrong when we approved the NCP Chairman. He has now been nominated to the position of Deputy Attorney General and Minister of Justice. Mr Speaker, are we doing our duties as expected by the public? Are the nominations proper? Are we doing the vetting process properly?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have in our midst a Former Member of Parliament. I usually called him 'Chairman Rado Yoke.' Whenever the budget was presented to this House, I used to get ideas, knowledge and moral inspiration from Honourable Foday Rado Yokie *[Applause]*. I admired him so much during the previous Parliament and I usually told him that he was supposed to be the Chairman of the Finance Committee. That was why I used to call him my Chairman. If we want this country to succeed and we want better representation in Public Service, put former Members of Parliament *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hold on a minute, Honourable Member. Somebody seems to have forgotten his job today.

**HON. ALUSINE KANNEH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker for reminding me. I was listening to Honourable Lahai Marah carefully.

**THE SPEAKER:** I guess you were captivated.

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

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** I was saying that if we want this country to succeed, put former Members of Parliament in positions of trust and I am still waiting to see the Honourable Suahilo M. Koroma from Bo *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me go to Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma from Koinadugu District. I come from Falaba District. I used to be in Koinadugu as well. Mr Speaker, the previous Government recognised the Koranko Tribe. I am not being tribalistic here, but that is the fact. Dr Keifala Marah was the Chief of Staff, but he was later appointed as Minister of Finance and then Bank Governor. But, we have not seen much of Koranko in this particular Administration. This is very serious and I am representing my tribe in this case *[Applause]*. The only Koranko person we have in your administration is the Secretary General of your party, Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma. We are expecting much from this Government. We appreciated the position of Chairman of the NCP, but we do not know what went wrong *[Laughter]*. Is it because of what transpired between Umaru Napoleon Koroma and the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs?

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, I want to confirm to the Honourable Member that nothing went wrong. We need Napoleon Koroma in the Justice Ministry at this stage.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Mr Speaker, then I will say to the Honourable Minority Leader that we the Koranko tribe *[Interruption]*.

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

**THE SPEAKER:** There are certain comments or statements that are best treated by simply ignoring them.

**HON. MUSTAPHA SELLU:** Mr Speaker, for the records, we will not ignore it and we have to keep the records straight.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, the records are very clear that they do not need any further clarification.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I want to say the Koranko tribe should be treated very seriously. I have no doubt because in our DNA, we are modest and obedient people and that is why during the colonial days, we were in majority in the Army. I have no scintilla of doubt that Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma will accept that position and he will perform excellently *[Applause]*. I want to however admonish my brother to think about Section 78[2] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, which has to do with the timeline for petition cases. I do not know what other interpretation you want to give to 78 [2] *[Applause]*.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. That matter is in court and it is sub judice to talk about it here.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Mr Speaker, I am not discussing the matter that is in court. I was advising my brother, Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma to think about Section 78[2] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. The timeframe for petition cases is four months and it is clearly stated in the 1991 Constitution.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I rise on S.O 32. I will read specifically Sub-section 6. With your leave, S.O 32 [6] reads: **"Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending."** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Mr Speaker, I want to ask the Deputy Minority Leader to tell me if I referenced any particular matter for which judicial decision is pending in court. I am discussing issues around the office of the Deputy Attorney General and Minister of Justice. I was saying that if approved by this House, he should consider Section 78 [2] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will conclude with one of the politicians I admire greatly. He does not know me, but I followed his steps with keen interest. He is no less a person but Dr Alie S. Kabba, former Minister of Foreign Affairs *[Applause]*. Mr

Speaker, if a particular individual should enjoy this Government is Dr Alie S. Kabba. He should not be appointed to any other position than cabinet position.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Point of Order. I rise on S.O. 34 [1]. It is the sole right of the President, in Section 61 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone to hire and fire. It is also the right of the President to reshuffle his Cabinet when and how he deems fit. I do not see anything wrong in nominating Dr Alie S. Kabba to serve in another capacity. The Honourable Member is trying to introduce a controversial issue.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Mr Speaker, I did not question the authority of the President.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** You questioned it and you should refrain from such statement.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, please take your seat.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** The Point of Order is perfectly in place and let me remind you to the best of my knowledge and information that Dr Alie S. Kabba has not complained. I do not know why you are complaining. You have less than a minute left.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Dr Alie S. Kabba is a mentor to us and we admire him. It is not about the person who is aggrieved, but the followers. So, we the followers of Dr Alie S. Kabba are aggrieved and we are not happy *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Lahai Marah, that last statement appears to be very deceptive. If you are a true follower of Dr Alie S. Kabba, why did you not follow him to where he is? I hope by 2023 you will do so *[Laughter]*.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** Mr Speaker, let me for the very first time thanks His Excellency the President for some of the transpositions from one job to another, but some are demotions while others are promotions *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** What the President has done is perfectly within his constitutional power.

**HON. LAHAI MARAH:** I know, Mr Speaker and that is why I appreciate him. I know that very well sir. I want to congratulate the nominee who will be going to the Ministry of Trade. Our brother who used to be in that Ministry has been transferred to the Ministry of Works, where the Presidential Infrastructure Initiative has been created. Therefore, that Ministry is almost going to be an empty Ministry [*Laughter*]. It has been taken to State House. Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity [*Applause*].

**THE SPEAKER:** I have not recognised any female Honourable Member. I already had four gentlemen. Thus, I will now turn to female Honourable Members for their contributions.

**HON. NENNEH LEBBIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to preface my intervention by making a short statement concerning what Honourable Hassan A. Sesay mentioned. When we were in Rwanda few weeks ago, I had some challenges with my health, but actually demonstrated so much concern and I was impressed. I was surprised to see somebody from another party to show so much concern. He took me to the hospital, irrespective of the fact that we were not given travelling allowance, but he made sure I was taken care of. I know he did it for nothing and no strings attached. I want to commend Honourable Hassan A. Sesay for that. I am sure he is honest enough by making that statement because he has done it. I have seen it and I appreciate him for that.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio for presenting these nominees to this Honourable House for approval. As I went through the resumes of some of the nominees, I am sure the President took his time to select them. I want to congratulate them in advance because I know this House will waste no time to approve them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to make a general statement as I always do. I always call the attention of nominees to His Excellency's ambition to transform this country. The President has no room for failure. He wants to see you perform and he has promised to perform exceptionally well in his first term. He wants to prove to this nation that he is a patriotic citizen and he wants Sierra Leone to

develop. That is why he always says 'Paopa Salone for beteh.' Therefore, as you are part of that development, please make sure that when you shall have been approved by this House, endeavour to bring development to your different MDAs you will be managing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to somebody whom I usually call the man of the people, a household name in Bo, the man of the youth and a man who has shown good example when he was a Member of Parliament. Much has been said about him and we cannot stop saying what we know about him. When I was denied the symbol in 2012, he is one of the people that encouraged me to stay focused and continue to work very hard for the party. He is a unifier and he has done so much for the people of Bo town and the village he comes from. The people are proud of him as a member from Bo District and we have been looking forward to seeing names like Honourable Foday Rado Yokie [*Applause*]. Mr Speaker, I am not saying the other nominees are not capable, but the fact remains when you attend a particular programme, you will look around to see certain people you are expected to see and if they are not around, you will not be very happy at all. Today, I will join my colleagues and the public to thank His Excellency the President because he has chosen somebody we have been looking for to be part of the Cabinet. Some of us are not surprised because we know what he has done for the people of Bo District and this Parliament. He is one of those who started the 'Paopa' agenda in this Well of Parliament and we held the first meeting in 2008 to make sure that we come on Board as Members of Parliament to push the aspirations of the President. We appreciate him and we will continue to pray for him because he has worked for this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I still remember when the former Minister of Finance, Mr Momodu Kargbo, came to this Well with a Bill, he would always be very comfortable if Honourable Foday Rado Yokie was not in the Well because he was aware of the fact that if he was around, he would face some challenges with Honourable Foday Rado Yokie. Honourable Foday Rado Yokie mastered his subject area very well and we are proud of him. He is a very good example to emulate and we will continue to

be with him. I am sure Honourable Members will be at his door for Oversight functions. We will not be going there to beg, but to do our work. Sometimes we may not have the chance to go to your Ministry and when we call on you, please answer our calls *[Applause]*. I know that Ministry is not going to be strange to you because you have already have knowledge in Mining Sector. I hope this time our brothers who used to roam about these Mining sites without legitimate documents will be taken care of. Let us make sure that we get the proper finances from your Ministry because that Ministry is very important. It is one of the ministries the country depends on for contributing to the bread basket of this country. I want to assure you that to whom much is given, much is expected.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the people of Bo are very happy for the nomination of Madam Amie Moriba *[Applause]*. I want to thank the President, on behalf of the Moriba Family from Moriba Town for choosing their daughter to this office. I know Madam Amie Moriba. I know she has the capacity to perform and she will not disappoint this House and the President. I have no doubt in her capacity to perform and I know the women of Bo will be proud of her. The women are here this morning to show their solidarity. We want to congratulate her in advance and I know she will be approved by this Honourable House.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I congratulate the nominees in advance. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Member. Before I call on the next speaker, I would like to recognise the presence, in our midst the Honourable Minister of Energy, Alhaji Kanja Sesay and Justice Alusine Sesay. I think I should also recognise another regular personality, Honourable Patricia N. Laverley, Deputy Minister of Finance. She is here almost every other week and she is the best friend of Parliament. Justice Miata Samba is also here. I would like to recognise her as well. Let us proceed.

Honourable Members, let me give this notice that we will end this debate at 1:00 p.m. and break for lunch for one hour. That means we will be here at 2:00 p.m. because we have two Bills to pass into law today.

**HON. JOSEPHINE MAKIEU:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here to thank His Excellency the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio for giving us these fine nominees. I am sure the President has done no mistake in nominating these people to serve in the capacity they have been nominated to serve. I want to remind all and sundry that when the President made his reshuffle, people had different perceptions. They had different feelings that certain nominees have been demoted. It was a bit worrisome to some of us, but when we sat down and looked at it keenly, it was really interesting and the President used his powers to ensure that things work for the best of this nation. Mr Speaker, Dr Alie S. Kabba has been a Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation as well as our Secretary General Umaru Napoleon Koroma, people made lots of comments. However, we came to the realisation that it was meaningful because you have to give Caesar what belongs to Caesar. For instance, Dr Alie S. Kabba has been in the United States for a very long time. Therefore, we need to have people of substance, people who can deliver or able to do something better for this country. We are giving him a very good praise for that *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have no doubt in the Deputy Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma's ability to perform. I said earlier that you should give Caesar what belongs to Caesar. The proposed Deputy Attorney General and Minister of Justice is now in his right position because we have been getting lots of problems in that Ministry and we know he is capable of handling that Ministry *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure all the nominees will not disappoint this House and the President, but I want to start with the women because I am a woman. I know the President is still adding to our quota, but we still want the **30%** quota of women representation *[Applause]*. I know that the number of women being added today is going to be more advocacies for us and will stand by us, especially the parliamentary Female Caucus. We are not going to fail. We are going to deliver to the expectations of the people. The parliamentary Female Caucus is going to deliver and

therefore, adding more women to the Caucus is going to add more prestige to us  
*[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mrs Amie Moriba. When I was a Councillor in Bo City, I worked together with her very closely. She is very diligent and very obedient. She has served the party for so long, but she never grumbled. I am pleased that the President has given her this position and we are proud of her. We know what she has been doing and she is going to ensure that the women of Bo District are proud her. I would like the women to copy these nominees, especially the women, so that at the end of the day, they too will be role models as these ones in front of us. I thank His Excellency for giving you that position. I want to inform them that I come from an area where the people depend on Agriculture. My constituency is very big and I would not like to see you sitting down in your offices for the rest of your term. Please visit Constituency 014. When you get there, ensure that you ease the sufferings of the women. The women are suffering and majority of them depend on their backyard gardens, but that is not taking them anywhere. I know when you are in that position, you will talk for the women and make sure the women are up to standard.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to the former Member of Parliament, Honourable Foday Rado Yokie. Indeed, he is a mentor and he has done so well for the Bo Municipality. He was tortured, humiliated and intimidated, but he stood his grounds to serve the party and the country. He has done so well and the President did not make any mistake to put him in position of trust. I want to remind him that my land is a diamondiferous area and I want to see reclamation of that land. There are women who are doing odd jobs in my constituency to get their daily living. I want them to be considered and empowered through your Ministry. I thank you very much and I want to admonish you to do your best. We would not have been in such happy moods if you were not considered because we know what you have done for the party and the country. I thank you very much and I wish you well. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for this opportunity *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for her contribution and I will now take the Honourable Daniel B. Koroma, followed by the Honourable Paramount Chief of Tonkolili and Honourable Francis A. Kaisamba.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for allowing me to contribute to the approval of presidential nominees. Mr Speaker, this is our constitutional responsibility to give our views and opinions in respect of nominees brought forward for approval and for the information of the public. This exercise is not just for formality. The essence is that Parliament has the capacity to approve or disapprove. If approved, this Parliament has the power to caution certain presidential nominees before they are being approved.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start with Dr Kelvin Anderson, proposed member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Local Content Agency. As far as the laws of this country are concerned, I have no problem at all because it is not in conflict with the law. If I consider the second sentence of the first paragraph in the Report, it is not in conflict with the law. With the leave of Mr Speaker, I read the second sentence. It says: **"He is currently serving as the Deputy Director General, National Minerals Agency."** Mr Director General, you are here before this House for another appointment as a member of a Board. I stated earlier that it is not in conflict with the law, but my problem is that if I were in your shoes, I would have told the President to appoint somebody who is equally qualified and a 'Paopa' supporter. There are many of them suffering out there who are also in need of jobs. Some are even seated in front of us here. That will be a plus on your side to advise the President. You could have said thus: 'Mr President, I appreciate you, but please there are other 'Paopas' who are suffering and they are equally capable to perform this job.' So, I want to encourage all of us, present and future nominees to think about this. There are people seated here who are also qualified to occupy such positions. copy such examples? As Director General and member of a Board of an Agency, I believe it is better if you say please let us consider others who are jobless. It is not wrong because you are not in conflict with the law, but if there is sense in what I have said, please in future, follow the cue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have this singular opportunity to speak directly to the appointment of my blood brother. Many people are claiming him now, but political divergence is everybody's right. The former Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business was APC and today his blood brother is now a Speaker and he is an SLPP. I am not in any way saying your membership as SLPP is influencing your speakership, but before you became Speaker, you were SLPP and you are still SLPP *[Laughter]*. So, your capacity as a member of the SLPP is obviously different from your capacity as Speaker of this House. Another example is the current Secretary General of the SLPP, Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma. He is equally my blood brother, just like the Honourable Abass Chernor Bundu and the former Majority Leader and Leader of Government Business, Honourable Ibrahim Bundu. If I say he is not from my constituency, it will be a disservice to my listeners. We are from the same house, irrespective of our political divergence. He is an SLPP and he has the right to be there; I am APC and I have the right to be there forever, I have the right to be APC and in practice in terms of developmental strides, I have informed this House twice and formally about my Bridge Project *[Laughter]*. That Bridge Project started four years ago and since then to date, the current SLPP Secretary General and now if approved, the Deputy Minister of Justice, was an integral part of that project. He is a key contributor to that project. I was a Member of Parliament in the last Parliament and I am still a Member of Parliament.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, both of you are working for your people.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Indeed, Mr Speaker. I must say so because it is the golden opportunity for me to say so. Most times people are being misconstrued and there is already misconception by some followers about certain things. I do not blame them, but I know that all of us are focused in terms of alleviating the burden of our people. When completed, the bridge will link or connect four districts; i.e., Falaba, Kono in the East, and Tonkolili and Koinadugu in the North. Our brother is a key contributor to that project.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to congratulate the 'Sandys' in this particular Government. I learnt that, S.O. 2, 'Dis world, wae you tem cam, nar you tem.' This

means there is time for everything under the sun. I want to say congratulations once again to the 'Sandys.' I am happy for them because it is their time *[Laughter]*. Mr Speaker, even if you go left, right, up and down, the Sandys are there. They are everywhere. Mr Sandy, you are about to take over the Ministry of Trade and I congratulate you in advance. I am happy because it is your time and we have to accept that *[Laughter]*.

I want to however remind you to make sure you revive the business environment in this country. The Indians, Lebanese and other investors are already on their way to Guinea or Liberia as alternative. Please do a thorough research or contact me, so that I will tell you some of the facts *[Laughter]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to my mentor, Honourable Foday Rado Yokie. He tutored me personally *[Applause]*. In this world, if it is yes, say yes and if it is no, say no. As the saying goes, 'be true to thyself.' He is good and at that time he was on the Opposition Bench. He used to cut across and he mentored me personally on how to debate in this Well. In fact, the first thing he taught me during the first six months was to observe and learn. I obeyed him and after accumulating wealth of experiences, he went through the notes I prepared for my maiden speech and he asked me to go ahead with my presentation. I want to say I am grateful to Honourable Foday Rado Yokie *[Applause]*.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I urge this House to approve these nominees on the condition that they perform their duties for the best interest of this nation. I thank you very much and God bless you *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Member. I am giving the Floor to the next speaker with a great deal of trepidation because I know him to be a great orator who might not want to stop after five minutes, but I want to plead with him to please recognise the time and use his time judiciously. I call on the Honourable Paramount Chief Bai Kurr Kanagbaro Sanka III to the Floor.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I could remember when I was a student, I used to watch Fidel Castro in the United Nations. When he was told that he had five minutes, he went up the stage and covered the clock with his handkerchief. He covered it and he spoke for three hours *[Laughter]*. However, I cannot do that here. We have to think seriously at any time and every time in this country. We have all the natural resources needed to make this country a great nation, but we are still battling at the last ten in the Human Development Index. So, the people who are sent here by the President are people he has given the opportunity to use their brains to develop Sierra Leone. You are here to make Sierra Leone a better place for mankind and to promote the people of Sierra Leone. If you promote the people of Sierra Leone by bringing development to the nation, I want to assure you that 2023 will be assured for the SLPP *[Applause]*. However, if you fail, be assured that the SLPP will be voted out *[Laughter]*. You have been given the opportunity to build a better nation. Every one of you here has been given an important institution to show their abilities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind the nominees who will be going to America and Britain as High Commissioners or Ambassadors that those are important places for mankind to represent your country. It is the theatre of debate at the United Nations Security Council. Anybody who is sent there is expected to protect his nation. You have the responsibility to ensure that there is peace in the world and the country you are representing. I thank the President for nominating Dr Alie S. Kabba to the theatre of debate *[Applause]*. Those are the key places wherein the United States of America, United Kingdom, France and all the Major Powers of the world are sending the best brains to represent them *[Applause]*. The United Kingdom is a very important country in making Sierra Leone a better place for all of us. The United Kingdom, for instance, is one of the biggest donors in terms of bringing development and peace to Sierra Leone. When Sierra Leone was going through turbulent times, it was the United Nations that voted to send the United Nations Mission to Sierra Leone [UNAMSIL].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we need the best brains of Sierra Leone to represent us. That is why some of us were very proud of Mr Speaker. He represented this country in the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS], *[Applause]*. For me, it is a promotion because you will be going there to interact with Members of the Security Council. It was the Security Council that approved the destruction of Libya. We had three African countries at the time. Mr Speaker, out of fifteen countries, five major countries abstained and we only had three African countries [Togo, Nigeria and South Africa]. One of them would have voted or abstained, and the 1973 Resolution would not have supported the United Nations to go to Libya. So, we need people who can stand not only for Sierra Leone, but for Africa. So, if I was an educated person or if I was a politician, I would have loved to be sent to the United Nations as the Permanent Representative because nobody will write anything about you on Social Media *[Laughter]*. As a Minister, they will tell you that you travelled too much and you collect per diem every day. Sometimes the things you see or hear on Social Media are terrible. I think the President has the powers to transfer you from one position to a position where he thinks you will perform better. So, if he does that, I say thank you Mr President for doing that *[Applause]*. Mr Speaker, I was just laying my preamble *[Laughter]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Paramount Chief from Bombali is a great man, very loyal and disciplined. He was in this Parliament and contributed very well to the debates of the House. The President has recognised him and has nominated him to the Local Government Finance Committee and I know him to be very articulate and hardworking. Honourable Foday Rado Yokie is also here and he was also a Member of Parliament. He was also articulate and eloquent. During the campaign, I was in Freetown when they were going to Kono, but they stopped at my humble home, together with the President to say hello to me. However, although I was not there, they left very good greetings to my Chiefdom Speaker *[Laughter]* and Honourable Foday Rado Yokie later called to inform me that they were at my house. I said you should have called me few hours back and I would have gone there to meet the candidate. Mr

Speaker, I am not going to pick again on any of these nominees. I want to thank Honourable Foday Rado Yokie very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Justice is very important in bringing peace, stability and good governance, and Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma has been nominated to serve as Deputy Attorney General and Minister of Justice. So, if you are sent there, I say thanks to all those who have been nominated and I am sure this Parliament will unanimously approve you. I welcome you and please perform well. Please do the best you can to make Sierra Leone a better nation for mankind. I thank you *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Paramount Chief for his contribution.

**HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Before I begin my intervention, I want to remind the Honourable Member from Falaba that it is the prerogative of the President, under the 1991 Constitution, to hire and fire and to reshuffle his cabinet when and how necessary. The Honourable Member said Parliament is not doing its job, but I want to remind him that it is not the business of Parliament to tell the President the person he should hire or fire. It is however the business of Parliament to ensure that the nominees are properly screened by the Committee on Appointments. It is our responsibility to do due diligence to every nominee sent to that Committee. Mr Speaker, I am sure if the nominees are qualified by law, they should be approved. As far as I am concerned, I know that all the nominees we have in front of us this morning are qualified. The report presented by Leader of Government Business is very clear and there is no question about it. Well, what we will perhaps do as a House is to encourage them to be very patriotic and to do their jobs very well, so that we can realise the overall goal as a nation. Therefore, for the Honourable Member to say the nomination of Dr Alie S. Kabba is a demotion is not only a shame, but very unfortunate. This is because Dr Alie S. Kabba has been the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone and we should remember that African countries and the United Nations are fighting for permanent seats in the UN. We also have the Committee of Ten [C10] and Sierra Leone is a chair to that Committee. We all know the efforts made by Dr Alie

S. Kabba to ensure he help the President to achieve these goals. I could remember vividly that at the time the reshuffle took place, Dr Alie S. Kabba was in New York, attending very important meeting regarding the [C10].

Having laid that premise, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure the President decided to send Dr Alie S. Kabba to the UN in order to ensure that he accomplish what he has started at the United Nations [*Applause*]. Dr Alie S. Kabba will not only represent Sierra Leone, but he will be working for Africa as Chair of C10. For me, it was a promotion and not a demotion at all [*Applause*]. Honourable Lahai Marah from Falaba equally mentioned that the Secretary General of the SLPP has also been demoted. He is a lawyer of no mean standing and if he has been nominated to serve in the capacity as the Deputy Minister of Justice, I am sure it is appropriate. According to the report presented by the Leader of Government Business, he already knows the problems of the Judiciary. He knows the challenges in the Judiciary and I am sure he has what it takes to solve those challenges. So, I do not see this as demotion. If certain issues are not controversial, it will be very irrelevant to bring unnecessary controversies like what we are doing today. I am not sure it is controversial.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk very briefly about the nomination of Honourable Foday Rado Yokie to the position of Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources. Colleagues who have spoken before me have made the point that he was a mentor and indeed he mentored all of us in the last Parliament. He did that with great enthusiasm to ensure that fresher in the last Parliament were mentored, so that they could stand here and contribute meaningfully. I have no doubt in his ability to perform. I am sure he will make things work in the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Edward Hinga Sandy, proposed Minister of Trade and Industry, which is equally a very important Ministry. I have been dealing with that Ministry for quite a while in the last Parliament because I was Chairman of Trade and Industry Committee in Parliament. We have been engaging the Minister and other senior officials of that Ministry. I was told that the team is working on a project, which is 'One District, One Industry Project.' I think that is a laudable project and I

would like to encourage the Minister to look at that project and continue with it because it will be good for this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Morie Manyeh. Of course, like the Honourable Bashiru Silikie said, he was my Lecturer at the University. He has done so much at the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources. He has set the pace for development in that Ministry and I want to encourage him to take those expertise to the United Kingdom to ensure that he strengthens the bilateral ties between the United Kingdom and Sierra Leone.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to conclude with a brother from Kenema District, Councillor Anthony Fonnio, proposed Board Member, Civil Aviation Authority. He is a great politician and a mobiliser. He is a member of our party in Kenema who supports the District Executive and has been supportive to all of us. I am sure he has all it takes to serve as Board Member at the Civil Aviation Authority. On that note, I want to encourage all the nominees to work in the interest of the country and the people of Sierra Leone. I thank you so much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank Honourable Francis A. Kaisamba for his contribution. I am sorry to disappoint many of those who wish to take the Floor, but we will be debating two Bills and I will take key note of the fact that I have not given some of you the Floor on this occasion. We are winding up the debate now. I will start with Honourable Ibrahim B. Kargbo, followed by the Leader of the Opposition and then then the Leader of Government Business.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to use this opportunity to make it clear to this House, especially to the Deputy Speaker of Parliament that the APC is part of this House and we will continue to cooperate and make sure that we work with the Government for the improvement of this country. I am saying this as a rebuttal to a statement that was made yesterday, but I will not further elaborate, except to state that we are patriotic citizens who are ready to cooperate with the State and we will continue to cooperate. At least, while we are here to take part in a very important activity, we have made a point that the statutory

authority given to the President to nominate citizens of this country to hold public offices is well known. So, we want to state that we appreciate his effort this morning.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to state here that I am not going to waste any time and we have not suggested from this side that Mr President did not have the Authority to hire or fire anybody. Sometimes we make jokes and if my friend from Falaba made a joke, it should be seen as a joke. However, the important thing is that we are happy that some of the very important members of our society have been nominated to hold very important positions, whether it is Honourable Foday Rado Yokie Dr Morie Manyeh, or Dr Alie S. Kabba, it does not matter. What is important is that these are dedicated citizens of this country and they are very intelligent. They are suitable for the jobs they have been nominated to serve *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like Mr President to continue to address the issues relating to gender, especially the women of this country. We have made the point time and again that the women constitute a very important component of every society. It has been over stated that the more women we have, the better the chances we have for development *[Applause]*. I hold the view that they are our great friends, partners and mothers. We should begin to recognise even their intellects and capacity to be part and parcel of society.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to the media, which is the area I come from and I would like to talk about Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara. Her nomination is a very important development *[Applause]*. The President has not only nominated a journalist, but has nominated a lady this time to make sure that the gender component of this country is addressed adequately. I have always said that my job is to help mentor people and Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara happens to be one of the few people I have mentored. I can assure you that she is going to the Ministry of Information and Communications with a wealth of experience and she will perform very well. I will come back to this House and tell Mr Speaker that Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara is performing well *[Applause]*. She will not disappoint her colleagues in the media and she will not disappoint the women folks of this country. She will continue to prove that she

is capable of performing the duties which are always giving to her, apart from the fact that she is also quite educated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to make a point before I take my seat. I went to St Andrews Secondary School in Bo and Mr Speaker also went to St Andrews Secondary School in Bo. Today, we have a lady here, Madam Amie Moriba, whom I taught at the St Andrews Secondary School. She is being given an important position by the President and I know she is going to perform well. When I was President of the Old Student Association of St Andrews, Madam Amie Moriba gave me a lot of support. In fact, I became President twice and she was always present. She was always around, especially when we had programmes. I can state here that she is a strong woman, a woman who could stand up and say this is not right and this is right *[Applause]*. It happens to be one of the fundamental reasons for her nomination.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state that this side thinks that the nomination of these people, especially Dr Alie S. Kabba, who is a great friend of mine, is apt. I could recall what the Iranian Ambassador once told me when I thought a meeting could not take place at about 11:00 p.m., but he went to attend the meeting and the Iranian Ambassador said, 'this man is a gentleman' and is the kind of capable man that is going to New York. I congratulate him for that and it shows that he is a dedicated man *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Dr Morie Manyeh went to my University as well, which is N'jala University. If you went to N'jala University, you will be properly educated and he got the education of N'jala University. So, that is a good choice and we did not hold the view that somebody has been demoted. We hold the view that the President reshuffled his cabinet. I thank you Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I crave the indulgence of the Leader of the Opposition to bear with me. There is one Member who has been very persistent in asking for the Floor for just a minute.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving me the Floor. This is a great day for me to talk about a brother, a comrade, but a firebrand and a youth leader. He is a man I have great respect he has served with me when we were in opposition. He is a man who can say the truth in the face of many people and he cannot be bent down. It is good to talk about a brother who has served us in different capacities in life. He served as a Member of Parliament. He also served the youth of Bo and he is now taking a new journey. He is no less a person but Honourable Foday Rado Yokie *[Applause]*. Mr Speaker, I can remember when we were in Bo, the President was attacked and there was great problem. I went to meet him at the front court of the Law Building, I looked at him and we said to ourselves, we are in a struggle, a struggle that we know we would succeed, a struggle that we are in for the ordinary man. So, I said 'my brother, you can incarcerate the body, but you cannot incarcerate the spirit of the being. My brother was incarcerated by the then administration because he believed in his Leader, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. I am sure all sorts of allegations were levied on him and I testified in court that he was innocent. I was very articulate on that, Mr Speaker. Today, I know the driving force behind that man is the goodwill and generosity to serve his people in this country. He always said that our similarities as Sierra Leoneans are far greater than our differences and that is why I admire him so much. We were on the Opposition Bench and I was sitting very close to late Honourable Musa Tamba Sam of blessed memory. I told him not to worry and we were in unison. We usually discussed the Budgets and Agreements in this Well and we did our best in that regard. I am sure you will agree with me that Honourable Foday Rado Yokie is a man with his own style of doing things. There is complete dichotomy between his personal life or social life and his political life. If we are talking about "Paopa" in this country, Honourable Foday Rado Yokie is one of the architects. He called us to his office to discuss 'Paopa' with the likes of the late Honourable Musa Tamba Sam, Honourable Nenneh Lebbie, myself and few others, but it was an Israeli pattern. We were very few, but dangerous in action because we transformed people in this Well *[Laughter]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we had our internal rift and it was a very big struggle for us to take our candidate, who is now the President for the symbol to contest for the Presidency. We had that struggle, but Honourable Foday Rado Yokie did very well in ensuring that things happened as planned. He was the commander of our platoon and I was there as a Programme Officer *[Laughter]*. Mr Speaker, it would have been unfair to me if you had refused me not to talk on behalf of a brother, a comrade who has served the people. He can sacrifice for his companions. We had many challenges at that Ministry, but his door will always be opened to everybody, whether you are NGC, APC, C4C or SLPP. Our brother will be there to serve the Government. I believe he will deliver well for the benefit of this country. He is very focused and he knows where he is coming from or and going to. I know he is going to police that Ministry and we will support him to succeed. Mr Speaker, let me just talk about one person *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member that is not what you promised to do.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I will deliver what I promised.

**THE SPEAKER:** You promised something and you have not done it.

**HON. NYUMA S. MATHEW:** Thank you very much, Honourable Members for the kind sentiments expressed about my brother, Honourable Foday Rado Yorkie. I know he will succeed. I am also aware that he will face challenges, but he will triumph over those challenges. As I stated earlier, 'you can incinerate the being, but you cannot incinerate the spirit.' Thank you, Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** It is very clear to me that there is a clock in Kenema whose minute hand has come to a standstill *[Laughter]*.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, I wonder what part of Kenema you are talking about, but I am not sure if it is in Gbokakajama. Mr Speaker, thank you very much. The day is far spent and I am sure you are expecting a lot from me. I want to assure you that I will not disappoint you. Mr Speaker, unlike some Members of this House, I am sure I know almost all these nominees in front of us. I am

sure the reason is deliberate. Mr Speaker, maybe it is because of my profession, but most importantly maybe because we are people who are born here, grown and will eventually die here. This means we are not from the diaspora. So, we will be around forever. I want to plead with those that I will not specifically mention not to take any offence because there will be more time for us to hang heads and talk. With the permission of the Speaker, I want to acknowledge the presence of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. He has been here since this morning, confirming his Ministry's support for the presidential nominees to the various posts they have been nominated to serve. I want to acknowledge his presence because he is a younger brother too. When I see him and Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma, I can confirm on a daily basis that I am getting older *[Laughter]*. Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma knows that we are getting older, even though he does not want to accept it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot has been said about the proposed Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Hinga Sandy. I am sure everybody knows he is a perfect gentleman and I do not need to say anything about him.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have known Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara for over twenty or more years. I will not say anything about Dr Morie Manyeh and Mr David Sengo Woobay. I only hope that after the Ramadan, both of them will invite us to China House to celebrate their appointments because they are my younger brothers. Again, I will not say a word about Dr Alhaji Fanday Turay because I have known him for at least thirty years. I think I am getting older now, Mr Speaker. You will not be too sure because the Chernors are not the same *[Laughter]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot has been said about the Honourable Paramount Chief from Bombali. Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma and I used to disturb Hon. P.C. Bai Sebor Kasanga II and P.C. Benya in this House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Dr Kelvin Fredrick Esebewa Anderson. His father was a very good cook and some of us ate good food when we were in the University. Like those who spoke before me, I endorse the recommendations as presented by the Leader of Government Business *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot has been said about Dr Alie S. Kabba. So, whatever I say will be additional information. When we were interviewing him yesterday, I said he has been the Chief Diplomat and he would be going to New York. I am sure he knows exactly why he is going there and what will be expected of him. We will monitor him closely because we believe in his judgment *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma. He is my younger brother and I think I did not only initiate him, I mentored him as well. I am sure he enjoyed my mentorship a lot. He is one of those who are very grateful and I believe he will do well because he knows what justice means, not just to us in Sierra Leone, but to the whole world. I want to assure him that we have been with him all these years and now that he is going to that New Office, he should continue to count not just on our counselling, but also our supports.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not want to talk about Honourable Foday Rado Yokie because a lot has been said about him. However, I want to assure you that what has been said about Honourable Foday Rado Yokie was very little *[Applause]*. We are happy with his nomination not just because we believed he would perform, but he has my consultant when I was the Chairman of the Committee on Mines and Mineral Resources. So, I am sure we are going to be his consultants and we will not allow him to fail. I assure you because we are going to work with him and give him all the supports he deserves because he deserves the best and we should give him the best *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Bashiru Silikie mentioned himself and the Clerk [Hon. Umaru Paran Tarawally], when they came to this Parliament. Well, the two of them were handed over to me by Honourable Foday Rado Yokie as his two boys; one on the right and the other on the left. I am sure they benefited from that signage. I am saying we are happy because a seasoned parliamentarian like him is going to the Executive and he will assist a lot in eliminating most of the bottlenecks and deadlocks that usually exist between this Parliament and the Executive *[Applause]*. I am sure he will not be in the Cabinet without sharing his parliamentary experience. Honourable

Lahai Marah spoke about the Honourable Suahilo M. Koroma, but I assure you that the Honourable Foday Rado Yokie will perform wonders because we will not give him space. Those who will want to distract him will not succeed because his friends are all good people *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Foday Rado Yokie is from Bo, but I enjoyed his attire because it confirms that he represents the Republic of Sierra Leone. His friends are everywhere in Sierra Leone *[Applause]*. I want to assure this Honourable House that the nomination of Honourable Foday Rado Yokie will bring more value to governance and it will add to our relationship with the Executive. I want to assure you because you know him more than I do. I am however not too sure whether he initiated me like I did to Mr Umaru Napoleon *[Laughter]*. I want to thank His Excellency the President for nominating Honourable Foday Rado Yokie to this position. I want to commend colleagues Members of Parliament who contributed and I am sure many more would like to contribute, but for those of you who had the opportunity, well done and for those who did not, time is precious but I will like to assure you by the time I am done your voices could have been heard.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind Dr Morie Manyeh and Mr Woobay that after the Ramadan we know where we usually meet. They should be prepared; otherwise I will keep that for another day *[Laughter]*. I want to thank you very much for the opportunity. I believe there is no iota of doubt for these nominees to be approved. I want to wish them well and assure them that we will be with them. For the Honourable Foday Rado Yokie, always do not hesitate even if it is 2:00 a.m. to call any Member of Parliament because we are still your colleagues. I thank you *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his brilliant contribution. I now call on the Leader of Government Business.

**HON. SIDI M. TUNIS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, mine is going to be a very short contribution. I want to thank my colleagues for contributing to this Motion and I want to start by thanking His Excellency the President for giving us more women. The women have been crying for their **30%** quota and today's approval is a very clear

manifestation of His Excellency's determination to support the women of this country and he will continue to do so.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all the nominees are highly qualified and I will not be bothered to talk about all of them. I would only admonish Dr Alie S. Kabba who has a very special assignment. He is not going to New York just as an Ambassador or as a Permanent Representative, but he will be going there to perform a special duty for His Excellency the President, on behalf of the people of Africa.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Foday Rado Yokie has been in this Parliament for a very long time and I am sure he knows a lot about mining in this country. He served on the Mines and Minerals Committee for a very long time and he is a businessman. He has to understand that this country depends on the Mining Industry a lot. He has been nominated by the President, which clearly shows that he has absolute confidence in him to support in the development of this country. I therefore believe that he will perform his duties and I have no doubt that you will have no difficulties in that Ministry.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I go to Mr Umaru Napoleon Koroma. He is the Secretary General of the SLPP and a lot has been said about his transfer from the NCP to Justice Ministry. I want to tell you as Leader of Government Business that we need him more in the Justice Sector than the NCP. I hope you are going to the Ministry of Justice on our behalf as a Government and do not listen to distractors.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Emma Sombo Banya is a very young female Lawyer. The Petroleum Regulation Agency is not an easy place to go, but for President to nominate you, I believe he has confidence in you. In fact, when she appeared before us, she proved to the Committee that she worth to be in that particular Department. This Parliament will give you the support you need to perform your duties.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Edward Hinga Sandy, proposed Minister, Trade and Industry, has tasted the Ministry as Deputy Minister of Water Resources. Therefore, I have no doubt that the Ministry of Trade will be a challenging for him. I will support

you and our parliamentary Committee on Trade will support you in restructuring the Ministry. I am sure my Deputy here will be with you at all times.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara has been a very good friend of mine since I came back to Sierra Leone. We have been together and I admired her a lot, because unlike many other women who probably would have been in the position that you are in today, you decided to develop yourself on your own. You decided to educate yourself and today you are one of the highly qualified media practitioners in this country. I am very proud of you and I wish you the best in your new assignment as Deputy Minister of Information and Communications *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I knew Mr Fanday Turay when he was in the Army and when he served as the ADC to late President Ahmed Tejan Kabba S.O. [2] 'U na soba man.' I have tremendous respect for you and the former NCP Chairman is here. I will advise you to work with him and I am sure he will lead you through for a very successful tenure.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all other nominees are equally qualified and equally important to talk about. I only want to assure all of you that this Parliament and the parliamentarians are always available for advice. In Parliament, we have Oversight Committees that will be visiting you in your various offices, please treat them with respect. Today, you are here for approval, but they will be visiting your offices to see what you are doing. I hope you will treat them with the respect they deserve. Finally, I will ask you to look up to this Parliament for support and do not hesitate if you have an issue in your offices to come back to Parliament. If you have any difficulty, please come to the Honourable Speaker and he will summon me and my colleagues to ensure that we take care of whatever problems you are having in your offices. Again, I want to thank Honourable Members for their contributions and support to this Motion and I ask all of you to approve our nominees.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House approve the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Second Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Leader of Government Business for his contribution. Before I put the question and indeed before my own word of congratulations to the nominees, I am going to adopt a small departure from normal practices. Since the inception of this administration, this Parliament has been yearning for a representative or this Parliament has been anxious for an Ambassador, not an Ambassador to any other country, but an Ambassador of the Legislative to the Executive *[Applause]*. We have two burning issues that we will be addressing over time; first, the welfare of Members of Parliament; and second, enhancement of the capacity of Members of Parliament to be effective and to deliver on the promises they have made to their constituents and to this nation as a whole *[Applause]*. Today, with divine providence and with the help of His Excellency the President, we cannot find a better Ambassador than the Honourable Rado Yokie *[Applause]*. This is because Honourable Foday Rado Yokie has been a two term Member of Parliament before this nomination. So, he knows more than anyone else the problems of parliamentarians. In fact, he was Chairman of Welfare Committee. Well, you cannot have a better Ambassador than him. So, just a slight departure from our normal practice and before my own word of felicitation, I would like to give him the Floor for not more than five minutes for the Honourable Foday Rado Yokie to respond to the many overwhelming expressions of appreciation of his nomination; and equally to do so on behalf of all the other nominees who we are approving here today.

**HON. FODAY R. YOKIE *[Proposed Minister of Mines and Minerals Resources]:***

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and to God be the glory. It has been a long journey, but faith, confidence, sincerity and loyalty brought me here *[Applause]*. I was so confident and believed in whatever I believed. Few of us started the 'Paopa' in this Well. I used to sit on that side and I endured lots of tribulations *[Applause]*. I have confidence in His Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. I was incarcerated because I believed in His Excellency the President. Constituency 048 was a hot seat and I was doing very well there. It was on that seat exactly in December, everybody wanted me to come back to Parliament because I provided leadership. I was very confident my colleagues, who were on the Government side, would go to

Opposition *[Applause]*. In my farewell Speech to this House, I told the then Speaker, Honourable Sheku Badara Bashiru Dumbuya that I would come to this Well not as a Member of Parliament, but as a Member of the Executive *[Applause]*. To God be the glory my anticipation has come to past.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like what the Speaker said, it is the normal norm that when you come to this House you address Mr Speaker and Members of Parliament, I do not have that opportunity any more to move a Motion and to suspend a particular rule, but I rather request Mr Speaker to suspend S.O 34[1], which has to do with deviation. I want to deviate from addressing Mr Speaker and Members of Parliament, which has been the practice because I want to address my people *[Applause]*. This is because they are the sufferers S.O 2 'Wi wea dea suffer nar wi boku.' I want to remind the public that the President is very conscious and he knows all of us. S.O 2 'wait fo u tym, bear u tym go cam' *[Applause]*. I was also surprised when I did not see my name in the first list of nominees that was prepared. I continued to be patient because I believed in him. I kept quiet and I also want you to keep quiet and wait for your time. I want to give you this assurance that I am representing you, especially the youth or grassroots *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, count on me that the mineral resources are the bread basket of Sierra Leone and there will be plenty of jobs. I want to assure you that there is going to be an economic turnaround for Sierra Leone. I will ensure that immediately I take the oath of office, there is radical reformation of existing mining contracts *[Applause]*. I believe that the Minerals in this country should benefit the people of Sierra Leone. I want to say gone are the days when we ratify bogus mining contracts in this country. I have always said from that side that we have always negotiated contracts from the position of weakness. I will rather prefer those minerals to be kept rather enter into bogus contracts *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it was in this Well that the then Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Honourable Alpha Khan brought the Mines and Minerals Acts. My colleagues will agree with me that I was very vocal, fearless and ruthless with that

Act. I attacked the passage of the National Minerals Agency Act, but because there was a conference in London and they needed to present that Act, it was hurriedly passed. Again, we negotiated from the position of weakness because we wanted investors to come. I will implore investors to come and I have been doing over the years, especially genuine investors *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in line with the President's vision, value addition is premium to my heart. I believe if we add value to our Mineral Resources, it will bring betterment to this country by providing the needed foreign exchange. I am an Economist by profession, but I know the Mining Sector.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will ask again to invoke S.O 34 [1]. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that 'once an Honourable Member is always an Honourable Member' *[Applause]*. 'One Country, One People' is the best thing we can ever say and that is the uniqueness of the party we find ourselves. We are all one country, whether you are from Kabala and that is why I am in Green, White and Blue. I am representing Sierra Leone, whether you are Temne or Mende, we are all from Sierra Leone. That is the uniqueness of the Green Party. Let me thank you very much for those wonderful accolades showered on me today. In life, you have to be liberal and I have very good working relationship with my brothers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me share a very big secret with you. Somebody was worried and the person sent me a message on WhatsApp that the APC Members of Parliament are going to boycott. The person said they will be in Red and White. I called no less a person, but their Secretary General and I said; S.O. [2] 'Bra na mi dea go tumara oh.' He said, S.O. [2], 'wi nor get problem oh, na you don pwel wi biznes, wi al dea go back' *[Laughter]*. Let me assure the people of Sierra Leone that I have an herculean task to bring the APC and the SLPP to work together *[Applause]*. I have very good friends from the APC. I also called the Former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma I said, S. O. [2], 'bra u borbor dea go Parliament.' His exact words were S.O. [2] 'na u na d wan posin na SLPP wa dea recognise me.' We have to be liberal and we cannot govern without them. We need them, Mr Speaker *[Applause]*. It is in that light I want

to give you the assurance that Honourable Foday Rado Yoke is here and I will ensure positive things happen. I thank the Honourable Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, Honourable Ambassador Dauda Kamara and the Honourable Yansaneh because I have been working behind the scenes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that we need Opposition, but a constructive opposition [*Applause*]. I was there and I supported the ratification of most Bills, but opposed Bills that were not in the interest of the people. I want you to do that. When Bills are not good, take me to task and if I bring a Mining Policy here that is not good, please oppose it. If on the other hand the Bill is good, please support it. We want the Opposition and the Government to work hand in gloves. I see for you, you see for me. I am now seeing for you and therefore you should also see with me, especially the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources. I will be heading. I want the support of Members of Parliament from Kono District and together we can make Sierra Leone a better place. Unfortunately, though deliberate I did not see the NGC Leadership, but I believe they are here. SO 2 'Wi wea boku, nar wi dea suffer' and because 'na wi dea suffer' I need your corporation. As a Government, therefore, we are looking forward to working with every person.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I take my seat, let me give you the assurance that it is not a coincidence about what is going on today in Parliament. If people are talking about the welfare and salary increase for Members of Parliament, I initiated it and I will give you the support because I know what it takes to be a Member of Parliament [*Applause*]. Like the Honourable Bashiru Silikie said, we in the Executive will be in the armchair at the expense of Mr President. We are free riders and we depend on you for support. If we do badly, the people will say, S.O [2] 'Watin una do? u nor get natin for go tel dem oh. Traday u ben dea say, mi govament nor bin dea n now na u govamnt dea.' Therefore, we need to capacitate you and we need to work with you. I want you all to perform in your various constituencies, so when we go into elections, I will support every one of you and I will continue to support you.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank Mr Speaker for this wonderful opportunity given to me and to also thank everybody for coming *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, let us give a resounding applause to our new Ambassador to the Executive branch of Government, Honourable Foday Rado Yokie *[Applause]*. I thank you.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

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

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

## **V. BILL**

THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COMBATTING OF FINANCING OF TERRORISM AMENDMENT ACT, 2019.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

[FIRST READING]

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY** *[Deputy Minister of Finance]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled, 'the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Financing of Terrorism Act of 2019 be read the first.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[The Bill entitled the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Financing of Terrorism Amendment Act of 2019 has been read the first time]*

[SECOND READING]

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled, the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Financing of Terrorism Act of 2019 be read the second time. In 2005, Sierra Leone passed into law the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2005 in a bid to enable competent authorities to investigate and prosecute persons engaged in the generation and laundry of criminal proceeds. The 2005 Act was formulated by the Inter-Governmental Action group against money laundering in West Africa. Sierra Leone is a signatory to other International Instruments dealing with Money Laundering and financing terrorism, including the Viana Convention

of 1988, the International Convention on suppression of Financing of Terrorism of 1999. Sierra Leone's Money Laundering Regime is subjected to oversight and periodic mutual evaluation by inter-governmental action groups to determine the effectiveness in relation to international standards on the prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism. The mutual evaluation is a process of accessing country's system in relation to the forty recommendations issued by the G20 Financial Action Task Force against Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the proposed amendment shall seize the burden of prove in the event an offence of Financing of Terrorism is referred to prosecutorial authorities. The proposed amendment shall correct existing errors, thereby obviating the difficulties of the enforcement that may happen. The Proposed amendment shall provide the Financial Intelligence Unit [FIU] and other relevant authorities to carry out intelligent gatherings, investigation and prosecution with minimum risk and ensure that the process is fully completed. The proposed amendment will bring certainty in the enforcement regime connected with currency declaration at the Port of entry and exit, specifically at the Lungi International Airport. It is also important to note that the proposed amendment will enhance the compliance rating with global standards in relation to the combatting of financing terrorism and money laundering. Improving our compliance rating with international standards would improve our image as a country. Improving our performance in money laundering would attract potential investors and also enhance confidence with serious investors. The proposed amendment will strengthen law enforcement in this area and consequently resulting to increase in investment which would in turn generate more jobs which are desperately needed in the country.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled, the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Financing Terrorism of 2019, be read the second time.

*[Question Proposed]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we have two Bills to discuss and we should not be too controversial.

**HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am sure this particular amendment is not controversial and the Minister has outlined the benefits we will get if we amend the 2005 Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Financing Terrorism Amendment Act. We all know the problems associated with terrorism in the World and Anti-Money Laundering. So, if for example an Act that was passed in 2005 cannot solve all the challenges we are facing in Sierra Leone or in the World, then we need the FIU, through the Ministry of Finance to bring an amendment to this House. Like what the Minister mentioned earlier, this will help to correct the current errors and challenges that are discovered in 2005 Act. It will give the FIU time to carry out intelligence and to gather information with regards how they do their jobs. It will create certainty in doing their jobs and enable the FIU to demand currency declaration at the Lungi International Air Port.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Sierra Leone is in the global World and all these institutions have global organisations. So, it will increase our compliance rating with other institutions and if we improve our image to the world and to other organisations, we will attract investments that are badly needed in Sierra Leone. If investors come and invest, it will create jobs for our people and create foreign exchange. It will also improve our Economy and of course strengthen the improvement of law and order. So, like the Speaker rightly mentioned, this is a non-controversial amendment which I believe this House should look at speedily and pass into law. Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, this is really a non-controversial Bill, unless you love to hear the sound of your voice. I will urge you that we proceed as expeditiously as possible to pass this Bill.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** I am holding two documents here. The presentation made by the Minister of Finance who said 2005, but what I have here is 2012. So, where are we? And also in the amendment that she presented to us, you will see the figure after the Bill entitled on Section 1. It says 'Section 1 of the Anti-

Laundering and Combating of Financing of Terrorism Act, 2012 is amended by inserting...' She is saying 2005, but the documents she presented are saying 2012. The Minister should make the corrections so that we will know where to begin.

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** The amendment relate to the 2012 Act on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Terrorism.

**THE SPEAKER:** I can confirm that I have the Parent Act in front of me and is dated 2012 and then the amendment is dated 2019. I see no document here that refers to 2005.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** If you go through what she presented few minutes ago, you will get me right.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Paramount Chief, do you have the 2019 Bill?

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** I have 2018 Bill Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** You said 2018?

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Speaker, the amendment they presented to me is 2018.

**THE SPEAKER:** Can the Honourable Paramount Chief be given the proper Bill, please? Do you have it now?

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Yes Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** The memorandum of objects and reasons is, 'the object of this Bill is to amend the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Financing of Terrorism Acts, 2012.' Actually, the purpose of this deliberation is for us to pass the amendment Bill of 2019 with the view to amending the 2012 Acts. Thank you.

**HON. PAUL S. SAM:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to take the cue as other Honourable Members were saying that the Bill is not controversial. Nevertheless, we need to give certain advice to the Ministry of Finance. The FIU will be manning the affairs of this particular aspect and they are going to ensure that we have credibility internationally. If that is the case, then the Ministry of Finance and the parliamentary

Committees in Parliament also need to open their eyes very well. This is because it will also help our Mining Sector to stop the smugglings that are happening in our porous borders. I have forty porous borders in my constituency where many things are exported out of this country illegally. I am sure the Ministry of Finance also has the responsibility to monitor the FIU.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Parliament should also give their legislative support through Oversight responsibility. There should not be any mortgage because that will help us to get international recommendation. If we are fighting and ensuring compliance, then this unit has to be strong. So, I want to say the Bill is not controversial, but I want the Ministry of Finance and the FIU to take that into cognisance, so that we have the best practice and also the recognition we deserve. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Madam Minister, any comment on the observations?

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Speaker, we will take note of the observations in relation to paying attention to the smuggling of minerals across the borders and strengthening the capacity of the FIU.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[The Bill entitled, 'the Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting of Financing of Terrorism Act, 2019 being an Act to amend the Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting of Financing of Terrorism Act, 2012 and to provide for other related matters has been read the second time]*

[COMMITTEE STAGE]

[THE HOUSE REVERTS INTO COMMITTEE]

Clauses 1 to 9 Proposed

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, the rate of terrorism and how money is being laundered is very serious. I have problem with Section 6, which talks about **Le20mln**. I want us to increase that amount because it is very small. These guys are

dealing with foreign currencies and you convert **Le20mln** into dollars, we will get approximately **\$3,000**, which is a pittance. The Honourable Member on the other side said it should not only be the implementation aspect, but the enforcement. We have to convert this money in terms of foreign exchange rate. So, if you are talking about **Le10mln** or **Le20mln**, I think it is very small. On that note, Mr Chairman, I want Section 6[b] to be amended by replacing **Le10mln** or **Le20mln** in Paragraph 'A' with **Le50mln**, which is not even up to **\$10,000**. If you want to match up with international standards, let us use comparative analysis and you will realise that this money is very small.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the next one is in Section 'C,' where we have **Le20mln**. I want that to be replaced with **Le60mln**, Mr Chairman. I know you have the spirit to do that. I know you are just trying to have some increase, but the spirit I am looking at is the International Standards and when you change this in terms of foreign exchange, it is nothing. We have to enforce it with the laws that will affect the culprits. I beg you Madam Minister to look at it this way. Honourable Members this is my submission. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** So, you are asking for an increase from **Le10mln** to **Le50mln**?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Yes, Mr Chairman, from **Le10mln** to **Le50mln** and from **Le20mln** to **Le60mln**.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** But do you know the difference between B and C?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Yes, Mr Chairman.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I am sure one is a penalty for individuals and the other is the penalty for Corporations.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I know, Mr Chairman. In fact, that is very small, but we will always make amendment. I am sure we want to make a little increment. That is why I said it is in the beginning.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** How about **Le50mln** and **Le75mln**?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, most times it is the individuals who are involved in this business instead of Corporations. Mr Chairman, I am sure **Le75mln** is adequate.

On that note, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the sums inscribed in Clause 6[b]; i.e., **Le10mln** and **Le20mln** are substituted with **Le50mln** and **Le75mln** respectively

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Your references should be to the amendments we are making. Please leave the Parent Act.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, if you look at the amendment in the Parent Act, I beg to defer from the Deputy Leader. If you do not declare **\$10,000**, you should not be fined **\$10,000**. I believe the drafters of this document are right. If you are leaving or arriving then for any reasons you refused to declare the said amount, the Deputy Leader is recommending that you should be fined **\$10,000**. I am saying this because if you are asking for **Le70mln** fine for Corporations, it is equivalent to **\$10,000**, Mr Chairman. So, I want to agree with the drafters. We should not try to get everything a Corporate entity brought and to declare. It is possible that somebody brings **\$10, 000** genuinely, but he or she did not declare or the corporate entity did not declare, you cannot fine the same amount. This is my position, Mr Deputy Leader and it is the decision of this House to accept what I have said or for the Minister to recommend to us as a Parliament. I still believe that the decision of the drafters of this document should be respected. Thank you very much.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** What is being proposed is very simple and straightforward. If you carry **\$10, 000** in your briefcase and for some reasons you failed to declare, in most part of the world, you forfeit the entire amount. So, what we are suggesting here is something equivalent. If you carry **\$10, 000** or more, the new law, if passed, would require you to declare it at customs. I do not want to name the country in West Africa, I was carrying more than **\$10, 000** on me for a purpose and I went and declared it to

customs. The senior customs officer gave me a form and I filled it. He looked at my passport and I signed the declaration and he said: **"You may go Sir."** However, a junior customs officer at another point at the Airport asked me to surrender the entire **\$10, 000** and I said for what purpose? The law did not say I should surrender the amount to anybody; the law says I should declare which I have done. So all I want us to do is to be very keen on observing the language used. I am sure the obligation is not to surrender, but it should be restricted to declaring the amount. I hope our Customs Officers, once this becomes law, are not going to follow the footsteps of that second Customs Officer I encountered in the unnamed country who insisted that I should surrender the amount to him for safe keeping.

**HON. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Chairman, this is an important Bill. I want to ask the Minister about the limitation. Is it maximum or minimum of **\$10,000**? Supposed somebody brought in **\$500,000** and failed to declare that amount until he has been found guilty, is the penalty still going to be **20mln**? If another person brings **\$2mln** in his briefcase and he fails to declare it, but he declared only **\$10,000 and** later they found out he was in possession of **\$ 1,000,000**, is the fine still going to be **Le20mln**? I leave that to this noble House to determine particularly Section 6. We are only talking about **\$10,000** you can just put in your pocket. You can even put **\$50,000** in your pocket.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Thanks you, Honourable Paramount Chief.

**HON. EMERSON S. LAMINA:** I want to look at Clause 2[a].

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Point of Order, Mr Chairman. We have a proposal in front of us from the Honourable Paramount Chief. I think we need to finish it before we go to the Leader of the C4C. Mr Chairman, I believe in fighting crimes, especially Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting of Financing of Terrorism Act, 2019. The Honourable Member was very keen when he said that if somebody has **\$10mln** and he/she fails to declare it, will you fine the person **\$10,000**? I think you should give us at least a minimum of **\$10,000** or more. If you failed to declare **\$10,000**, for instance, and you are fine **\$10, 000**, they will calculate it and we will include the percentage.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** We can accommodate the Paramount Chief, but I do not know whether this will help.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, something comes up which is very important. This is different, Mr Speaker.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Let me offer the following rendition to Section 6[a] in terms of deleting the **Le30mln** or its equivalent in foreign currency and substituting **\$10, 000** or more or its equivalent in Leones or other foreign currencies. The words "**or more**" should be added after the dollars.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** I agree with you. If I am in possession of **\$2mln**, but I only declared **\$10,000** and I was caught with **\$2mln**, what could be the punishment for failing to declare that type of amount? Do you think I should pay **\$10,000**? Then smugglers and those who launder will do it. I am just asking and it is not in the Bill. I need clarification.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, I want to agree with the Honourable Paramount Chief. If he failed to declare, what will be the penalty? I believe if you fail to declare the said amount, you must quantify something there, either you forfeit the said amount or for me to you pay **60%** of the said amount. So, it is the decision of this House to decide what we want, Mr Chairman or you forfeit the amount you failed to declare. I am sure paying **60%** of the said amount will be apt. So, we need to agree, so that the Honourable Paramount Chief will come up with a Motion in line with what he said.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** All of us have used the word 'declare' because that is the requirement that we want to be insisting upon. The failure of which will invite a penalty, but the Parent Act does not use the word 'declare' and I want to draw the attention of Honourable Members to that. The Parent Act talks about reporting without the word fine. The manner of reporting could be verbal or otherwise, but what we ought to insist upon is to make a declaration which should be in the form of a standard form of declaration as obtains in other International Airports. There is a form you will be given

and that form is known as 'Declaration Form.' I think that introduces an element of certainty that is greater than just calling on the person to report. I do not know whether you have the Parent Act, but it says: **"Or in his entry luggage without first having reported."** The word 'reported' is not defined. What form does reporting takes in that context? I think it is better for us to restrict ourselves to the notion of a 'declaration' rather than a 'reporting' which of course cast an obligation on the supervising authority to devise an appropriate declaration form for use at the Airport and elsewhere.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, I think you are on the right track. The normal practice is for you to be given 'a declaration form,' but we do not have it as you said. So, our role is to make laws and we have to make the amendment between 'reporting' and 'declaration.' We however need to provide a schedule because there is no schedule and if there is a schedule, we should devise the form or manner in which you declare. This is because if they did not bring that to us, but you can later brought it in a form of an 'Instrument,' you need to see the standards you will use to declare as compared to other International best practices. You need to have it before you can do it properly. If you look at the Anti-Corruption Bill that is front of us, the declaration form is at the schedule and it is provided to us.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I agree, Honourable Member.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** I am just suggesting to the legislators.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Do you have that kind of money, Honourable Paramount Chief?

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Chairman, when people bring that type of money and declare, do we monitor how they spend that money? When you go to South Africa, where I have been going from 2008 until 2018, you will never go and change money even in your hotel. They do not allow you to pay in dollars, unless you use credit cards. If you go to buy anything in one of their shops, they will never accept foreign currency. You have to go to the bank and change your Dollars and you

will be given a receipt, so that when you come back at the Airport, you will be able to show that I brought in **\$20,000**, but I change this amount at Ecobank. If you want to change back their local currency, they will do that for you and give you back the Dollars. If you go to a shop and expended **\$100,000** on goods, you will pay **14%** tax. If you submit those receipts, they will refund your money and they will ask if you need the Dollars or in whatever currency or they give you credit card, so that when you come to Sierra Leone, you will use it and get back your money, including the tax you paid. If we are really serious about money laundering, these are the areas we ought to look at. If somebody brings **\$2,000,000** and declared that amount, are we going to monitor him on how he spends that amount? Or is the person going to pay or bring it in the black market? I need clarification, Mr Chairman.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I hope the Minister is taking note because I am going to invite her to respond to all these queries that have been raised. Countries that are not starved of foreign exchange have precisely the procedure they use. Sometimes you are not allowed to pay for goods and services in foreign currency. You pay for goods and services in local currency. When you enter those countries, you first go to a bank or a foreign exchange bureau and exchange your money. Where effective monitoring is in place, that is indeed the procedure that is used and I cannot agree any more why we should not use the same procedure in this country. To a great extent, it will help make monitoring more effective and eliminate, to a great extent, the black market or the parallel market as they call it in some countries.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** But you do not go and pay to terrorists.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** A lot of proposals have been made. I am concerned about the word 'Reporting.' I think it should be replaced by the word 'Declaration' to make it abundantly clear and there should be a standard declaration form attached to this Bill as a schedule or they can come later with that one for approval. I do not know how well you can capture what the Paramount Chief Member has been suggesting here.

**HON. SAMA I. SANDY:** I am sure the spirit behind this is that we should look at it beyond just the punitive measures. It should be like mitigation or a deterrent mechanism. I support what the Paramount Chief has said because if it is just in this quantum or amount, it should be punitive in nature, but if we make it elastic, it will serve as a deterrent. The fine is based on the amount and if for instance it is **\$10,000** there should be a range beyond hundred, thousand or million.

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Mr Chairman, I do not see why there should be a schedule of penalty. They should just forfeit the amount. That penalty is harsher than anyone you can fine. In Ghana, you forfeit everything and if it is **\$2,000,000**, you forfeit it. If you start making a schedule, the real money smuggler pays fine. If I come with my **\$5,000,000** and you charge me one hundred thousand dollars, I will pay. I know it is a percentage and go with my money. We do not want them playing with that amount of money in our Economy. I want to inform the Ministry of Finance to keep it simple. If you do not declare, you forfeit the amount. Please keep it simple and no calculation [*Applause*]. This is because you have the duty officers who will be entering into some fictitious deals. They should forfeit the entire amount. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Members, do we have the Parliamentary Counsel here? I am at a loss. Can we actually conclude the proceedings on this matter without the presence of the Parliamentary Counsel? This is because these are very substantive amendments that are being suggested here?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, I think we need to carry on because we have agreed to replace the word 'Reporting' with 'Declaration.' So, we need to go to the Parent Act and make the amendment. We need to go back to Section 68. We already have it in Part VIII of the Parent Act, Page 63, Section 68. We are now trying to insert the words 'Currency Declaration at point of entry' instead of 'Reporting'.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** No, but you have to do the amendment on the Bill and not the Parent Act.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, this is because the caption is not on the Bill given to us, but the Parent Act. So, you first need to amend the Parent Act before you go to the other sections under Part VIII of the Parent Act. That is what we need to do first.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I agree with you, but then concentrate your amendments on the 2019 Bill.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Now we have a new end for Section 68.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** First of all, you go to Part VIII and delete the word 'Reporting' and substitute it with 'Declaration.' It now reads as 'currency declaration at point of entry'.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Exactly Sir.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** No, now go to Paragraph 6.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** That is where we are, Mr Chairman.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** That should be your 'A.'

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** 6[a] should read, 'currency declaration at the point of entry.' I will now insert.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** No, deleting the word 'Reporting.'

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** The new A is coming now.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The new 'A'?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Yes, Mr Chairman.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Delete the word 'Reporting' and substitute it with 'Declaration'.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** 'Currency declaration at the point of entry.'

**THE CHAIRMAN:** No, just the word 'declaration' in Part VIII.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** In the Parent Act, there is a sentence which talks about 'Reporting.' So, I will want to insert [b] in 6 by deleting the word 'Reported' and substituting it with the word 'declared.' So we now have 6[a] and 6[b].

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Sorry, Mr Leader. We just want to understand Part VIII is which the heading in the Parent Act, so the heading is going to be amended.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** That is correct.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** It is not in this document presented to us and we are not going to amend the heading.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Member that is what he did first.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** That is what I am asking now.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Let me help you there. Look at your new 'a.' It says deleting the word 'Reporting' and substituting it with 'Declaration' in Part VIII. That will be the heading. Are you with us now?

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Yes, Mr Chairman. In essence, Part VIII should read 'currency declaration at point of entry'.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** That is the amended version.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Chairman, I want to make a small amendment. I want Part VIII to read 'currency declaration' and delete the words 'at point of entry.'

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Why?

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** This is because you are going to declare both at the entry and exit points. If you are leaving out, you must declare and if you are entering, you should also declare. So, Part VIII should now read 'currency declaration' which is the heading rather than just at the point of entry.

**HON. PAUL S. SAM:** Mr Chairman, we have online transactions as well. For instance, if you go to the borders we have Orange Money we usually send to relatives. If somebody has ten to fifteen thousand Dollars, that amount could be converted into Leones and kept in the phone. If a person in Guinea exchanges \$**15,000,000** to send to somebody on a daily basis, I think we have to look at that area.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Member, you are introducing an entirely new element here.

**HON. PAUL S. SAM:** Mr Chairman, we are talking about money laundering and money can also be laundered this way.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** We are addressing specifically Section 68.

**HON. PAUL S. SAM:** I know, but we are talking about entry point. I am sure money can enter without declaring. Somebody can receive **\$50,000** or **\$60,000** within a week without declaration of that amount. What we are looking at here is that we are talking about 'declaration at the point of entry or exit,' but somebody in Guinea could send **\$15,000,000** through other means. People are receiving money through Orange Money on a daily basis.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Let us be clear, what is the mischief here?

**HON. PAUL S. SAM:** We are talking about Terrorist Act and Money Laundering.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Member, please take your seat. You have introduced a totally new element here. What the Bill seeks to direct attention to or the mischief that is being addressed here is Money Laundering aimed at Financing Terrorist Acts basically, not legitimate business.

**HON. PAUL S. SAM:** I am not talking about legitimate business, Mr Chairman. With this amendment we are trying to put in place, I am sure... - *[Interruption]*.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Mr Chairman, the Bank Governor has just informed me that they are working on E-Money Regulation and that will cover what the Honourable Member is talking about.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** So, let us focus our attention on what is in this Bill.

**HON. PAUL S. SAM:** Mr Chairman, this is for us to have a clear understanding. We are trying to make a law which will clearly state that if you want to enter Sierra Leone, you have to first of all declare the currency.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Honourable Member, you are **100%** right, but like I said, it is a new regulation and E-Money Regulation will come very soon and I am sure that is going to cover what you are talking about. It is a very serious issue and I agree with you, but let us focus on what we have on the Floor now.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** With all due respect to the Leader, I know something about E-Governance and there is no way you have to transact Orange Money from Guinea to Sierra Leone. If you want to transact large amount of money, it has to pass through the banking system. There is no way you transfer money electronically. I was with the Bank Governor in Estonia and we know everything about E-Transfers. I am sure Orange Money does not work in Guinea. What we are saying here is about terrorism and the transfer of money using the banking system, which is money laundering. I mean people in the FIU know that there are many ways you undertake transactions. Mr Chairman, without wasting much time, I want to go to the other amendments.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** No. Please let us be clear on what we are addressing here.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** We are addressing it that is why we are talking about Regulatory Declaration when the Honourable brought the issue of E-Money.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** For me, any money that is transacted through the banking system cannot fall into the bracket of Money Laundering.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** That is what I am saying, Mr Chairman.

**HON. PAUL S. SAM:** It usually happens, Mr Chairman. I have four chiefdoms and they are using Orange money in Guinea as I speak. We have these towers across borders that business can be transacted too.

**HON. SIDIE M. TUNIS:** Honourable Member, you are **100%** right and I know exactly what you are talking about. I am also from a border area. I am simply saying that there is E-Money Regulation that will be brought to this House and it is going to cover the issue you are talking about. For now, let us focus on the amendment that we have before us please.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, I am sure what he is saying is not easy. I was saying it to him that internally it can happen, but externally it is not possible because there are international laws. For instance, if you want to send money to the United Kingdom, the highest you can send is six to eight hundred pounds. So, if he is talking about Orange Money, I am not sure if it is possible externally.

**HON. PAUL S. SAM:** Mr Chairman, it works and it happens.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Member, I rule you out of Order. Let us confine ourselves to what we are dealing with. You are deviating entirely from what we are dealing with.

**HON. SHEK AIAH D. KASSEGBAMA:** I have a simple question to ask. The minimum or maximum amount you have to declare is **\$10,000**. Most of the expert money launderers usually travel with people. You said the Minimum is **\$10,000** or above, you can give somebody **\$10,000** and go to the duty free and convert it and they have nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine, are they culpable? These are the questions we need to ask. The money launderers have different ways of laundering money. They will give somebody else **\$10,000** to go to shop.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** There are international standards. The International standard that is operating in most countries at the present time is that the magic figure of **\$10,000** is what is operating. For example, in the United States, if you are entering the United States of America with **\$10,000** or more, you are obliged to declare. If it is nine thousand, the law does not catch you. Again, if it is nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine Dollars, the law will not affect you, but there has to be a figure. Basically, the focus here is somebody who is carrying on him as a person or in his handbag an amount of **\$10,000** or more and he does not want to declare. So, we are saying that **\$10,000** or more must be declared.

Honourable Members, let me give you an example just by fortuitous circumstance. I was travelling one day at the crossing point at Murray Town. I was waiting for the boat and the Minister for North West arrived with two people; one Lebanese and one Sierra

Leonean worker at the Airport. They had two or three bags of foreign currency with them and the Minister reported to me that the Lebanese was about to board Air Maroc with all of that money when he got caught. I immediately telephoned the Governor of the Central Bank because I was crossing at that point and asked him to come to the Murray Town point. They were carrying with them more than **\$10,000**. I cannot tell you what happened to that money, but all I can say is that I handed over the issue for them to deal with not to the police alone, but to the Central Bank. I wanted them to take the money to their vault, so that the police could investigate later. That way at least we secured the money. If it was going to be forfeited to the state, the state would be the beneficiary rather than calling the police and asking the police to involve. I am not imputing anything here; I am just stating what happened. Now, carrying **\$10,000** compels you to make a declaration and that is what we are seeking to address now. The Leader of Government Business has informed the House that all the other variables that Honourable Members mentioned are currently being addressed by the Bank of Sierra Leone and very soon a Bill will be brought to this House. However, if we keep bringing all kinds of possibilities in dealing with this one, I am afraid we are not going to be able to achieve anything. Please do not bring another problem here.

**HON. PAUL S. SAM:** It is not a new problem. Let us lay aside the issue of this online transaction, but let us also look at the porous borders we have in this country because we talking about declaration at the point of entry. We have over forty porous borders wherein even the military visited those borders once a month and we do not have immigration officers at those borders.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Then you take the risk. That is the risk you should take. If you avoid the normal entry or exit points, you are taking a risk of forfeiting the entire amount.

**HON. PAUL S. SAM:** There comes in the Terrorist Act. That is what we are discussing, Mr Chairman.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** It is simple, Honourable Member. If you use the official exit and entry points, you have to declare **\$10,000** if at all you have such amount in your

possession. If you do not use that and you use a porous passage, that is smuggling and it is another issue all together.

**HON. PAUL S. SAM:** That is the illegality we are talking about.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** But then, it is addressed differently.

**HON. PAUL S. SAM:** Thank you very much.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** I spoke to the Director, the Deputy Bank Governor and the Minister earlier. I am sure the Act was passed in 2012 and I read it last night. There are many things we need to change, but after I spoke to them, they told me that they would consider all those issues. So, the process has to be continuous because things are changing every day. I agreed with what the Leader of Government Business said in terms of continuing with this amendment. Let us give them notice that they should bring the entire Bill or Act to be amended because I raised many issues with them and they agreed to reconsider them. This is because since 2012 to now, many things have changed. So, let us concentrate on this one for now.

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

**HON. SILIKIE BASHIRU:** Mr Chairman, we are discussing Part VIII. I want to know if the Draftsman is around?

**THE CHAIRMAN:** He is not present at the moment.

**HON. SILIKIE BASHIRU:** Then who is taking records of the amendments we are proposing here?

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The Clerks are here, Honourable Member.

**HON. SILIKIE BASHIRU:** Thank you very much. I proposed that Part VIII be read 'currency declaration'.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Fine and that has been noted. Let us proceed.

**HON. SILIKIE BASHIRU:** I hope it has been concluded. I want us to conclude with this issue, so that the clerks will be aware of the amendment.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Then move the Motion, Honourable Member.

**HON. SILIKIE BASHIRU:** Mr Chairman, I move that Part VIII [a] be read 'currency declaration.'

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Any seconder?

**HON. MOSES B. JOIKIE:** I so second, Mr Chairman.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[Part VIII [A] has been amended as 'Currency Declaration]*

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** It has now been inserted.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** That is the new 'A,' and the 'A' has now changed to 'B.'

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I think we have to get another 'B.' We have to delete the word 'reported' and substitute it with the word 'declared' because it is Section 69[1] of the Parent Act. So, we need to insert 'B'.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** That is correct, Honourable Member.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** We can now go in chronological order.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Well, you have to move now.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I move that 68[a] and [b] has the new clause inserted.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** And your new [b] will read as what?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** It should read by deleting the word 'reporting' and substituting it with 'declaration.' Mr Chairman, I hope you are okay.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I am okay, but I can see Honourable Bashiru Silikie shaking his head.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, this new Bill is amending the Parent Act. Therefore, instead of having the 'A' in the new Bill presented to us, we should have something else. I am sure 'A' is telling us to read the Parent Act in tandem with the new one. Instead of having a new [a&b], we just continue with the Parent Act. That is why we asked for the Parent Act yesterday.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Honourable members, you cannot go to the Parent Act. What you are doing is that you are amending the Parent Act through this process. When you do the amendment here, it has a consequential effect on the Parent Act. So, please focus on the amendment.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Chairman, 2012 has been amended.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Exactly, Honourable Paramount Chief.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** So we now have Clause 6[a] to take the place of Clause 6[c].

**THE CHAIRMAN:** No, let us put [b] first.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** We have done that already.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** What have we done?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** We said deleting the word 'reported' and substituting it with the word 'declared', which is for [b]. Now, we have [c] and 6[a] will now become [c].

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Correct, Honourable Member.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** So, 6[b] will now become 6[c] and 6[c] become 6[d]. Mr Chairman, these are the amendments.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** If you go to 6[d], in the place of **Le20mln**, we should have **Le50mln**.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, on 6[d], instead of **Le20mln**, we will now have **Le50mln** and on 6[e], in place of **Le30mln**, it should be **Le75mln**.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Then, you have to move for the amendments of those areas.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, I move that Paragraph 6[a to e] as amended form part of the Bill.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. PC BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA [III]:** Mr Chairman, before we second that Motion, what about the proposal the Honourable Member has moved before that if you fail to declare, you forfeit everything. And if you forfeit, there is no need to have these a,b,c,d,& e.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Well, maybe we need an 'f.'

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** We do not need an 'f' sir.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** We need a separate Paragraph 'f' to capture what Honourable Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella was saying. He said that if you failed to declare, you should be penalised by complete forfeiture.

**HON. MOHAMED B. SHAW:** Mr Chairman, if you are to forfeit everything, there is no need for these other insertions.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** No, it is different. These ones are going specially if you are caught, but if you fail to declare it is a different thing.

**HON. MOHAMED B. SHAW:** How are you going to be caught, Honourable Member?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** If you failed to declare the said amount.

**HON. MOHAMED B. SHAW:** If you failed to declare and you are caught, you forfeit everything.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I want to ask a question for those who are advocating for a total forfeiture, Let us assume Mr 'A' arrives at Lungi International Airport after midnight, but found no Customs Officer around and he is carrying a million Dollars. If he asks for a declaration form to declare his money and there is neither an officer nor a declaration form, what will happen to him?

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Mr Chairman, I think the question will be why there is no Customs Officer? He/she is supposed to be assigned there.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** It is not his fault and you cannot blame him.

**HON. MUSTAPHA SELLU:** Mr Chairman, we are doing this to prevent Anti-Money Laundering.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I have not given you the Floor. The question is, you have somebody who has arrived at the Lungi International Airport, carrying a million Dollars after midnight. If he wanted to declare, but there was no officer and no designated authority to declare to. If he asked for a declaration form none is available, are you going to penalise that person?

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** Well, he could simply sing 'kumbaya.' He has not committed a crime. He wanted to follow the law, but there was nobody and no form.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** And you cannot penalise him.

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** You cannot penalise him. He would just walk away, but you can also make your verbal declaration for the records. I am sure there are cameras around the Airport. You will say 'I have a million Dollars with me. There is neither form, nor individual to declare, but I am declaring to the cameras. I am sure after that declaration, I go with my money.'

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I posited that example simply to illustrate the harshness of the proposal you are making.

**HON. DR KANDEH K. YUMKELLA:** It has more deterrent effect and also reduces the likelihood of rent seeking. Any Officer with the schedule will start negotiating percentages. So, I believe you make it simple by forfeiting the amount he/she failed to declare. That is a serious penalty for anybody and you can add more or add a jail term.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Apart from the Minister, do you have any technicians here dealing with this matter? Can they help us?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, he has been helping us. This is a Committee stage and we want to agree with the Honourable Member of the NGC that we want to remove 'd' and 'e,' so that we can accommodate forfeiture, which is what

we have to do. If you failed to declare the said amount, you forfeit everything. So, we do not need **Le10mIn**, **Le20mIn** or **Le75mIn** fine.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Member, let me draw your attention to the objects and reasons at the back of the Bill and to draw your attention to this important point that if you say somebody has failed to declare just by that act alone without any proof of intent, because that is what this Act aims to get rid of. The Criminal Law criminalises two things; the Act itself and the mental state in which the person is. You have to have the intention and it is that intention that is being removed from the law. Please read the object carefully because it aims to get rid of the Mens Rea or the intension aspect. The prosecution does not need to prove that the person intended to do certain things. Is that what you want?

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Yes, Mr Chairman.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The Act by itself should carry that kind of penalty. Without any proof by the prosecution that he intended to do it deliberately for a purpose?

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, when we say declaration that is why we are asking the Ministry of Finance to give us the regulation. In the regulation, they would explain the meaning of 'Declaration' to us and how to do it. The Speaker mentioned how somebody should declare if there is nobody to declare to. I am sure that means it is the fault of the Government and you cannot blame the person. The regulation should explain to us how the declaration should be done. Now, if there is nobody to declare to, I am sure it is the fault of the Government. I think there should be another regulation that will explain to us the format of declaration.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Well, let us ask the representatives of FIU. I am sure they are here and what I seem to be gathering from the Bill is that they want to eliminate the burden of proof on the part of the prosecution entirely. That is what they want to get rid of.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Chairman, in other International Airports, when you go to their Immigration Departments, they will show you the office to declare. In fact, the Immigration Officer will be there as well. You will also see the

signs around the place when you go to collect your luggage. So, there are people you usually meet. I can give Malaysia, South Africa and Venezuela as examples. I have gone there, when you pass through the Immigration, you take your luggage, you will see those you should declare if you have anything to declare. Even if you do not want to declare, they will call and check your luggage. So, what the Honourable Bashiru is saying is that we should have this particular aspect of the Bill in place. We have to spell out the areas where people will go and declare. If you have nothing to declare and they are satisfied, you take your Passport and you go ahead.

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Chairman, what we are aspiring towards is **100%** compliance in the declaration of the currency at the Point of entry and exit. We go with the proposal. I am sure there is a consensus in the House on forfeiture. What we are proposing is that we will go back and prepare a comprehensive review of the 2012 Act and come back to the House with a set of regulations on the implementation aspect of the amendments.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** If you look at 68[1], you will see the section we inserted. It says: **"A person who leaves or arrives in Sierra Leone with \$10,000 or more or its equivalent in Leones or other foreign currency in cash or negotiable bearer Instrument on his person or in his luggage, without first having declared the fact to the relevant authority, forfeits the whole amount of money not declared."**

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The person must have first of all committed an offence and he is liable on conviction to forfeiture of the entire amount. It is better that way.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Okay, no problem sir.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Clerks, are you getting him?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** He is bringing up something. Conviction happens in court, Mr Chairman. So, we have to focus on the cut-off point, which is forfeiture.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** You mean you want to do it out of court?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** No sir. I am saying if you failed to declare, you forfeit everything at that particular point.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The Parent Act talks about conviction.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Chairman, we cannot have a Kangaroo Court at the Airport. It should be at the point of conviction. In South Africa, they will seize the money until you defend yourself.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Honourable Paramount Chief. You can be creating a Kangaroo court at the Airport.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Somebody can just go there and tell you that you did not declare the money. Sometimes we have people from the Diaspora who can just bribe the officers with **Le100, 000** and they will allow them to pass *[Laughter]*.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I hope the Clerks have captured what you are trying to say.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Chairman, you have done a very good job, but they should bring the Draftsman and the clerks.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Without having declared the fact to the relevant authority, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to forfeit the entire amount. Honourable Paramount Chief, we will do that before we send it for assent.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Okay Sir.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I totally agree with you. Any seconder?

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Chairman, I second the Motion.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[The Motion that, without having declared the fact to the relevant authority, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to forfeit the entire amount has been carried].*

THE HOUSE RESUMES ITSELF

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I report that the Bill entitled the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Financing of Terrorism Act, 2019 having gone through the Committee of the whole House with some amendments, I now move that the Bill be read the third time and passed into law.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Point of observation, Mr Chairman.

**THE SPEAKER:** You wanted to say something before I put the question.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** What about the memorandum of object and reasons? Because she puts the amendments when she was moving.

**THE SPEAKER:** She has reported to the full House and I will now put the question Sir.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Okay sir.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]*

*[The Bill entitled, Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Financing of Terrorism Amendment Act 2019, being an Act to Amend the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Financing of Terrorism Act 2012 and to provide for other related matters has been read the third time].*

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Speaker, we have passed this Bill, but they should go and prepare the declaration form and present it here so that it will be part of this Bill.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is noted, Honourable Member. They will bring it in the form of Statutory Instrument.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Thank you sir.

## **V. BILL**

THE BORROWERS AND LENDERS ACT, 2019

[INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled, 'Borrowers and Lenders Act of 2019 be read the first time.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[The Bill entitled, 'Borrowers and Lenders Act, 2019' has been read the first time]*

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled, the 'Borrowers and Lenders Act, 2019' be read the second time. Mr Speaker, the Bill provides for the establishment and operations of the collateral registry by the Bank of Sierra Leone and in addition provides a legal framework for securing obligations of any nature with movable and immovable properties, whether existing properties or future properties. The Legal framework also includes creation and perfection of security interest that are devoid of any formalities and unnecessary costs. The Legal framework also involves realisation of security interest in an expeditious manner while ensuring that the right of borrowers and third parties are protected.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the aim and objective of the proposed Bill is to stimulate responsible lending particularly to micro small and medium enterprises by providing a mechanism for efficient creation and registration of security interest in both movable and immovable properties, establishing a predictable priority regime and facilitating efficient realisation of such interest in the event of a default. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, prior to this proposed Bill, Parliament had enacted the Borrowers and Lenders Act of 2014. However, with the passage of time, the Bank of Sierra Leone, development partners and other stakeholders highlighted a number of important gaps and deficiencies in the 2014 Act with respect to secured transactions, standards and conformity with international best practices. This prompted the Bank of Sierra Leone, in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation, to hold extensive consultations with stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. In view of the voluminous suggestions for improvement and giving its importance, we decided to overhaul the entire Act by replacing it with a new statute.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I turn to the structure of the Bill. Chapter one mainly provides for the definitions of terms in this Bill; Chapter two deals with the application

of the Act and this it includes rules that determine the applicable law in a cross border context; Chapter three deals with 'borrowers' autonomy and commercial reasonableness. It also includes the general standards of conducts; Chapter four deals with the creation of security interest; Chapter five deals with the protection of the security interest; Chapter six deals with the establishment of a collateral registry. This effectively relates to the way the Bank of Sierra Leone will enhance how to operate the collateral registry, the effect that the collateral registry has properties and in other Banking transactions. It also relates to borrowers authorisation to minimise the risks of fraudulent transactions. Chapter eight addresses the rights and obligations of parties and third party obligations; Chapter nine deals with the enforcement of security interests; and Chapter ten deals with transactions and the transition of matters in the new law. It provides for amendments and the repeal of other laws to avoid any overlaps in the existing jurisprudence.

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled the 'Borrowers and Lenders Act of 2019,' be read the second time.

*[Question Proposed]*

**HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the day is far spent, I could remember that we had a pre-legislative hearing on this particular Bill. During that meeting, experts from the Bank of Sierra Leone were brought to explain to Members of Parliament the amendment they wanted to make. Of course, it was made very clear and we also asked pertinent questions on that day. They answered our questions and I believe this particular Bill is in the interest of the people of this country. I am also sure it will bring sanity in the borrowing and lending sector. Therefore, the purpose of the new Act is to broaden the scope of the registry to include moveable and immoveable assets. We used to encounter problems contracting loans in this country because they used to ask you for assets. People used to give their lands and other non-moveable assets. They now want to broaden the scope and also to enable individuals who are not licenced with the Bank of Sierra Leone and are not being supervised by the Bank of Sierra Leone to register their security interests. I am sure that will enable

lenders to use moveable assets as collateral and register security interests in collateral registry under a single regime, facilitate public and private markets to secure lending to all businesses of all sized, whether or not incorporated in order to ensure that all interested parties can easily find out whether the borrower's property is subject to a security interest. Like what the Minister mentioned, the 2012 Act had some challenges; therefore, there is need for the Bank of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Finance to bring this particular amendment to this House for consideration. If we pass into law the proposed amendments, it will help to close gaps and increase efficiency.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like I stated earlier that the whole House was at the pre-legislative hearing and we were able to understand the purpose and object of this particular Bill, so that even people with moveable assets can access funds. They can use their moveable assets as collateral. The Commercial Banks for example, would now determine to work out how they would give out loans using those collaterals and the various challenges that will be encountered. I am sure this Bill is timely and it will be necessary for this House to look at it critically and pass it into law because it is in the interest of this country. Your vehicles, machines and tractors are moveable assets and they can now be used for the purpose of this Bill to be used as collateral. I thank you so much and I believe even mobile phones are also involved. So, this is a non-controversial Bill and I believe we will look at it and eventually pass it into law. I thank you very much.

**HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the Minister of Finance and the Bank of Sierra Leone for presenting this Bill to us for our consideration. In his opening remarks, the Chairman said they took this Bill to us at the pre-legislative session and a lot of issues were discussed. However, we have not been able to delve into it to see whether the recommendations that were made at the pre-legislative hearing were incorporated into this final document. Mr Speaker, because Government's is objective and I want to draw the attention of the Ministry of Finance not to just pass this Bill to meet international best practices, but it has to done fairly. This is because one of the objectives of this Bill, according to what you told us, is to

broaden or open the scope for small and medium terms businesses. That is what we want to see because if the Economy is not diversified, then we cannot change our lives for the better. We want to see a practical example being manifested into the communities where these people are because we are talking about moveable and non-moveable assets. For instance, our petty traders would want to go to the commercial banks to secure loans after passing this Bill into law. I know that they are now guaranteed the opportunity and privilege to go and access the loans based on the collateral they will present.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to state here that the only fear I have is that there is no fixed threshold for such loans in terms of which asset you should present to the Bank for the loan. I wanted to know the threshold for moveable assets. For example, if you have your motorbike and you want to present it as collateral, how is that going to be determined by the Commercial Banks? The other thing I wanted to clarify is the documentations. Again, if you have a vehicle and you have surrendered the life card for instance, at the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank and that has been registered into the collateral register, then swiftly enough somebody moves to another Bank and presents the same document to secure the loan, I want to know the effectiveness of the system in terms of capturing defaulters? We have said it time and again that as much as we are trying to broaden the scope, we should be mindful of the compliance level in meeting international best practice.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you very much for broadening the scope, because this will give all of us chance and also our constituents by extension. I am sure majority of our constituents are petty traders and they will now have access and facilities to support their businesses. Thank you very much.

**HON. CHARLES O. ABDULAI:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the things I want to commend the Ministry of Finance is that they have done what we were supposed to do as Members of Parliament. This is because most of our laws are obsolete and we have to replace them to match with the current trend. This Bill is not a new Bill because it is a Bill seeking to amend the Parent Act of 2014. The advantage

of this Bill is that the experts and stakeholders have looked at the Parent Act and they have seen lots of lacunas. There were lots of gaps, but they want to make it very clear to match with international standards and to the benefit of Sierra Leoneans.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my colleagues said if this Bill is passed into law, it would widen the scope for lenders and there would be flexibility in lending. This is one of the advantages for Members of Parliament and our constituents. Of course, it gives autonomy and independence. This is because we have seen over the years a lot of interference into the operations of the Bank of Sierra Leone. Therefore, this Bill would provide the autonomy and independence to the Bank of Sierra Leone. The Bank has undergone a lot of amendments over the years, yet there were lots of interferences. The structure of the Bill has been read by the Minister and Chapter 1 deals with definitions and terms, Chapter 2 deals with application of the Act, etc.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the issues I would recommend is the provision relating to adequate powers and independence. I would also want to state that autonomy stands out clearly and that is how we want to see the Bank of Sierra Leone to look like, so that it matches with international standards. I think this Bill is not a controversial one as has been reiterated by colleague Members of Parliament who have spoken before me. The Bill is going to take care of some gaps or lacunas in the Parent Act.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to ask my colleagues to pass this Bill into law, so that our standards can be matched to International Banks for Borrowers and Lenders. I thank you very much.

**HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have deliberated on this matter and we commended the Central Bank for coming up with such opportunity for our constituents and our fellow Sierra Leoneans who do not have such capacity to do so. We believe that this is the time for them to make very good use of their opportunities. My only concern however is that we have situations where some people have used collaterals to access state funds or tax-payers moneys or people who have worked very hard to make their moneys, but they suddenly abandon those

collaterals and then go about their own businesses and those collaterals have been there like white elephants. The banks have been finding it very difficult. I do not want to call names here, but some people are pretending as if they have done nothing wrong to society and they considered themselves as very successful business people. To me, these are not very good business people at all. These rouses have used their senses of direction to attain wealth.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my submissions to the Bank here is that we should have professionals in the banks who will be engaging the borrowers in a professional manner. They should know that they are dealing with people's moneys and it is the people's money. When micro-credit was introduced in Sierra Leone, some of us were in London, but we received phone calls from Sierra Leone on a daily basis. People were calling and telling us that our wives or relatives have been arrested and taken to police stations, and we should contribute certain amount of money, otherwise the individual would be jailed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I speak, even during the elections and after elections, I have rescued some of my constituents due to the micro-credit they took, with specific reference to Bank at Bandajuma. They came to my constituency to arrest some of my people for moneys they borrowed. Mr Speaker, due to the situation in our society, if you have money either through hard work or bank loans and you have set up a business, people thought you have become a rich person and all problems should be directed to you. This is why our businesses suddenly collapse. To the Central Bank, this is good and it is in the right direction.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my aunt's husband once told that 'Money is like your skin.' That means you have to look after your money the way you look after your skin. Humbly, I will testify to this House that I have carefully taken care of my money. I have demonstrated that to my colleagues in this House. I have only three pair of shoes. I used one pair during my campaign and sometimes people vouched to hide that shoe from me, but this is not the case. I can use one vehicle for ten good years and do not

care how many vehicles others have changed. In a situation like this, however, I have seen people who can change properties overnight and they go into deficits.

On this note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I crave the indulgence of our bankers to ensure that they perform their jobs professionally, so that in the spirit of helping our people, it will be economically viable and they will not be liabilities to their Members of Parliament or other relatives. I rest my case.

**THE SPEAKER:** I think frankly, the decision on your part is an out of court, I went that way. You are going to be the last speaker.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Speaker, they have gone through the pre-legislative hearing, but normally a pre-legislative hearing only gives you what more or less the Second Reading, but it does not go into the details of the Act. This is a very important Bill and it has to do with both micro-financing and physical financing in the lowest aspect of our Economy. For a developing country like Sierra Leone, we need this type of legislation to increase the supply of money.

**THE SPEAKER:** You mean the money circulation?

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Both money circulation and money supply. As an Economist, I am sure the Minister understands and the Bank Governor knows what is meant by money supply. The banking industry in Sierra Leone is alien to our society. You will find out that there is money entrapment in the homes than the total deposit at the Bank in Sierra Leone. In fact, what makes money supply increases in the market is when the Police, Military, Civil and public servants are now paid in the Bank. However, the very day the money enters the Bank, thousands of people will go there and take back the liquid amount because it does not create the legal reserve. If the legal reserve is **20%**, you will find out that for every Leone you deposit in the Bank, you would have made **Le5**. The Bank Governor knows what I am talking about. If the legal reserve is **25%** for every Leones that goes to the Bank, you would have made **Le4** and this is what is happening all over the world.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have what is known as Continental Money, Fictitious Money and the banks usually calculate these moneys, but in reality when there is a loan, they could not pay because of the legal reserve. For example, if I deposit **Le100, 000** and the legal reserve is **20%**, that means the Bank cannot loan out **100%** of my **Le100, 000**, but they will only give **Le80, 000** and deposit the **Le20, 000** for the legal reserve with the Bank of Sierra Leone. Therefore, by the time it is calculated, the **Le100, 000** could have made **Le500, 000**. This is why countries like America, England and Germany do not go to World Bank to borrow because they create the legal reserve in such a way that if they want **\$20bln** at the Open Market in New York city, it would take them less than 1 hour for the banks to respond. We do not have where to borrow. I wish this Bill will have been brought at a later date, when we could have studied it to look at it carefully.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, do we have Credit Bureau Information [CBI]? Are you going to establish that CBI? We need that for this Bill to be effective. This is why if you go to America, within one or two hours, you could have borrowed a car of **\$200,000** because of the CBI. They also know that you are as good as gold or you are as terrible as going to hell. So, I am asking if you are going to establish a CBI? You will find out that people would have borrowed money from the banks using their houses as collateral and when they go to court, it will take years and the banks will be on the losing end. In fact, even when the Judge gives the order for a forfeiture of their houses, they will appeal even though they defaulted. It is happening as I speak. I know so many houses whose owners have defaulted, but the banks cannot even sell those houses because the courts are delaying the cases. Are you going to address that issue if this Act is enacted?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I was in America, if you do not pay, the Marshalls come in and throw you out because you have already signed the agreement. I do not know whether the issue relating to the collateral has been addressed here, but what about the land in the Western Area? Somebody would come with land document to the bank, but later the bank will have no access to the land. Again, are we going to

address land in the provinces, where we have a two-tier land tenure system? I hope I do not get people bored, but this is what this Bill is going to address. I am just raising issues and when we come to the Committee Stage, we will know what to do. This is one of the Bills we have passed in this House and when they affect us, we go to court. Those who command the 'will power' will say S.O. [2], say: 'Bo, da case olam fos, mek dea man eh propati lef dea fos.' It is going to happen and it has happened many times. What about plantations? Are we going to use the commercial courts to address these issues? Are you going to establish good insurance companies? In America, England or Germany, for instance, before a loan is given to you, they will check for your health or life insurance if it is good. Is your house insurance good or do you have employment insurance? These are the issues we need to talk about. Sometimes we copy things we do not know how to address them. People are fired in this country without compensation. Others are fired without getting their moneys for years. In America, you have unemployment compensation and unemployment insurance. These are issues we have to address Mr Speaker. Our people are suffering in the name of micro-credit and the usury laws are not applied. They will give you **Le600, 000** from BRAC and you will be expected to pay **Le1.8mln.** It is three times what you borrowed and this is not good at all. It is happening in the micro credit business because we do not have usury laws to limit the amount of interest rate. The interest rates are too high and are not regulated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy we are trying to follow the Western world, but are we putting in place protection for both the lenders and the borrowers? I want to thank you for allowing me to talk about this Bill. I support it because we have to protect the lenders and the borrowers. I thank you sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Paramount Chief. May I now invite Madam Minister to respond to the concerns Members have raised.

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. With this Bill, we intend to have a set of regulations to complement the provisions in it. The issues relating to the various causes, for example, the kind of protection that would be availed

to both the borrowers and the lenders and the consequent procedures to be implemented in that respect would be detailed in the regulations that would come to this noble House. The Bank of Sierra Leone does have a Credit Reference Bureau and a Credit Reference Bureau has been in operation since 2012. In fact, what we have been doing is linking the records available at the Credit Reference Bureau at Bank of Sierra Leone with the Biometric data. If you have borrowed and you have secured loans from Rokel Commercial Bank or Sierra Leone Commercial Bank with your biometric data, it would be easier to detect. So, we are trying to build controls the Borrower through this Act and other developments that were parallel reforms that were undertaken.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled the Borrowers and Lenders Act of 2019, be read the second time.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[The Bill entitled, the Borrowers and Lenders Act of 2019 being an Act to provide for the repeal and replacement of the Borrowers and Lenders Act 2014, to provide for the broadening of the scope of the collateral registry to include the registration of encumbrances in immoveable assets, to provide for lenders who are not licenced and supervised by the Bank of Sierra Leone to be able to register their security interests and for other related matters have been read the second time.]*

[COMMITTEE STAGE]

THE HOUSE REVERTS INTO COMMITTEE

Parts I, II and II, Clauses 1 to 14 Proposed

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts I, II and III, Clauses 1 to 14 stand part of the Bill.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Members, let us go through page by page. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Those Pages deal with the definitions. I understand that during the pre-legislative hearing, there was an agreement that a particular word should be defined in the Act.

**HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA:** Yes, Mr Chairman, but I cannot see that word. I think it should be 'encumbrances.' I am not sure if it is captured here.

**HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA:** I think the word 'encumbrance' was supposed to be defined, but it is not captured here.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Page 9? Page 10? Page 11? Page 12? Page 13? Page 14? Page 15? Page 16? Page 17?

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Chairman, Page 16, Clause 4[1]. Can we get the definitions please? I need the explanation with the exception of Sections 2, 5, 6, 12, 54 and 55 and Sub-sections 3 of Section 64. We need the explanations.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I am sure the Minister is taking note.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Chairman, we cannot continue until this issue is addressed because we are in Committee Stage.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Madam Minister, would you like to respond?

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Interpretations would be handled when the draft Bill is being finalised. We will make sure that this specific word is clarified in the final draft.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Then how can we pass the Bill today?

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Well, Bank of Sierra Leone has just clarified to me. They said the parties, both the Borrowers and Lenders, may deviate from this Act by agreement with the exceptions of Sections 2[5].

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** That is the explanation? Please put that in simple term.

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** We would clarify it.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Madam Minister, please put it in simple English Language.

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** I have been advised that it is a legal term that we cannot change.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** But we are going to pass a Bill which we do not even know the meaning of the word. Mr Chairman of the Committee on Finance, would you assist?

**HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA:** Honourable Paramount Chief, I think this one can always be determined in court. The experts have tried to explain to us that it is a legal term and it can be determined in court. We have been told that they have tried to explain to us in simple language.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Let us put it in the simple English Language.

**HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA:** Simple language?

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Chairman, can you give us five or ten minutes so that the drafters can put something in place?

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** The synonym for 'derogated' is 'deviated from.' So, with the exceptions of Sections 2, 5, 6, 12, 54, 55 and sub-sections 3 of Section 64, this Act may be deviated from by the two parties; i.e., the Borrower and Lender with the exception of Sections 2, 5, 6, 12, 54 and 55. We have just replaced 'derogated' with 'deviated.'

**THE CHAIRMAN:** I am sure the Honourable Paramount Chief is quite aware of the meaning of the word 'deviation' as it is also contained in our Standing Orders. For example, it is in 34[1]. Page 17? Page 18? Page 19? Page20? Page21?

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts I, II and III, Clauses 1 to 14 stand part of the Bill as amended.

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

*[Parts I, II and III, Clauses 1 to 14 form part of the Bill as amended]*

Parts IV and V Clauses 15 to 41 Proposed

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts IV and V, Clauses 15 to 41 stand part of the Bill.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Page 20? Page 21? Page 22? Page 23? Page 24? Page 25? I hope the Minister of Finance is watching his television to see what the House is doing for him *[Applause]*. Keeping us here so late, but when we ask for our welfare, we never get any positive response. Madam Minister, the Minister should be very thankful to you. You have been able to captivate this Parliament because if it was him, the situation might be totally different.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Chairman, I have some amendments, but because of Madam Minister, I kept quiet *[Applause]*

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Madam Minister, you heard the Paramount Chief?

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Yes, I did.

**HON. P.C. BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** And luckily where I did my Masters in Economics in American she was also there. We came from the same 'echelon' *[Applause]*.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Page 24? Page 25? Page 26? Page 27? Page 28? Page 29? Page 30? Page 31? Page 32?

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts IV and V, Clauses 15 to 41 stand part of the Bill.

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

*[Parts IV and V, Clauses 15 to 41 form part of the Bill]*

Parts VI and VII, Clauses 42 to 62 proposed

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts VI and VII, Clauses 42 to 62 stand part of the Bill.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Madam Minister, please go and dutifully report to your Minister. Pages 31? Page 32? Page 33? Page 34? Page 35? Page 36? Page 37? Page 38? Page 39?

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts VI and VII, Clauses 42 to 62 stand part of the Bill.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[Parts VI and VII, Clauses 42 to 62 form part of the Bill]*

Parts VIII and IX, Clauses 43 to 78 proposed

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts VIII and IX clauses 43 to 78 stand part of the Bill.

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Page 39? Page 40? Page 41? Page 42? Page 43? Page 44? Page 45? Page 46? Page 47?

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that Parts VIII and IX, Clauses 43 to 78 stand part of the Bill.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[Parts VIII and IX, Clauses 43 to 78 form part of the Bill]*

THE HOUSE RESUMES ITSELF

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I report that the Bill entitled, the 'Borrowers and Lenders Act of 2019,' having gone through the Committee of the whole House with some amendments, I now move that the Bill be read the third time and passed into law.

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

*[The Bill entitled, the 'Borrowers and Lenders Act 2019,' being an Act to provide for the repeal and replacement of the Borrowers and Lenders Act 2014, to provide for the broadening of the scope of the collateral registries to include the registration of encumbrances in immovable assets, to provide for Lenders who are not licenced and supervised by the Bank of Sierra Leone to be able to register their security interests and for other related matters has been read the third time and passed into law]*

**THE SPEAKER:** I thank Honourable Members who have persevered to stay on to the very end to see the passage of these two very important Bills. We shall meet again

tomorrow to continue. I think we have two more Bills from the Ministry of Finance. The message we would like the Honourable Deputy Minister to take, on behalf of all of us in this House, is that the Minister should realise that we are doing all this work for the State, but more particularly for his Ministry, because we want him to succeed. What we need is reciprocity. Let him take care of this House and its Members.

**MRS PATRICIA N. LAVERLEY:** Mr Speaker, please be assured that the message will be conveyed. On behalf of the Honourable Minister of Finance, I would like to convey our profound gratitude to you for staying late in helping us advance our reforms in both the banking sector and what we are trying to do in terms of combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism. I come here so often and I want to assure you that I will take your case to the Minister. I will take the messages back and for those of you who are fasting, I realise that it is close to the time of 'breaking the fast' and again thank you very much. We shall discuss the Banking Bill and the Bank of Sierra Leone Bill tomorrow. I want to advise that we go through those two documents before sitting commences tomorrow. The Borrowers and Lenders Act is one of the marshals that links the Millennium Challenge Cooperation [MCC] Compact where **\$400mln** is what is on the line. The importance of these Bills cannot be overemphasised. If we are able to secure the **\$400mln** from the MCC, please think about what that would mean for your constituents *[Laughter]*.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope I have managed to energise you for tomorrow. The Bills we will be discussing tomorrow are linked to the IMF programmes and the total package is **\$171**. So, as we are going through Parliament and passing these Bills, we are only trying to attract additional capital into the country. I want you to really understand what we are trying to do and what that would mean for your constituents and for all of us in this Honourable House. I thank you very much and wish you a very good evening.

**THE SPEAKER:** We want to take the opportunity to extend a very special invitation to the Minister of Finance and we would love to see his face here tomorrow. I know you would dutifully and conscientiously convey our invitation. Tell him we would miss him a

great deal and we would love to see his face again after so many months of absence.  
Thank you, you are excused.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*[The House rose at 6:30 p.m. and was adjourned to Friday, the 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2019 at 10:00  
a.m.]*