



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 26TH OCTOBER, 2017

SESSION – 2016/2017



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VOLUME: I

NUMBER: 54

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Thursday, 26th October, 2017.

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Thursday, 26th October, 2017.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 10:20 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown].

[The Speaker, Hon. Sheku Badara Basiru Dumbuya, in the Chair].

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S. O. 5[2]

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER, 2017

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Wednesday, 11th October, 2017. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5. There being no corrections or amendments, could somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Wednesday, 11th October, 2017 as presented.

HON AMADU M. KANU: Mr Speaker, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. ALPHA B. LEWALLY: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for parliamentary sitting, held on Wednesday, 11th October, 2017 has been adopted as presented]

III. PAPERS LAID

[A] THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

MR LEONARD BALOGUN KOROMA *[Minister of Transport and Aviation]* Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay before this Honourable House the following documents:

Addendum No.1 to the Cargo Tracking Note System Agreement [27th November, 2014] Dated 20th September, 2017 by and among Sierra Leone Ports Authority [SLPA] and The Government of Sierra Leone; Represented by the Ministry of Transport and Aviation [The GoSL] And National Commission for Privatisation [NCP] Global Tracking and Maritime Solutions Holdings [GTMS Holdings] [The 'Sponsor'] and Transport and Ports Management System, West Africa, Sierra Leone - [TPMS, WA-SL] [The 'Contractor'].

[B] THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

RTD MAJOR ISHMEAL SENGU KOROMA [*Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the following document:

The Independent Police Complaints Board's Inaugural Annual Report, 2016 and Focus Group Engagement Report, 2017.

IV. CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES TO THE HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH

HON. DR MICHELE SHO-SAWYER: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I represent Constituency 108, which covers Congo Town and part of Tengbeh Town, where the Honourable Deputy Speaker, Chernor R. M. Bah also represents. I stand here as a Member of AWOL [All Walks of Life] to give our congratulations to the Honourable Deputy Speaker of this House, Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah. In the first place, I want to thank His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, for choosing a brother, a colleague and a mentor. I also want to thank the National Advisory Council [NAC] of the All People's Congress [APC] for approving the nomination of Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah as running mate to the APC Flag Bearer, Dr Samura Matthew Wilson Kamara.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, do not go into that because you know nothing about the deliberations of the NAC.

HON. DR MICHELE SHO-SAWYER: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I want to thank all those who played a part in choosing Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah. On behalf of AWOL and Constituency 108, now 109, I want to congratulate him. The Global Chairman asked me to pass this congratulatory message to him. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON. SUALIHO M. KOROMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise this morning to congratulate a brother, somebody that has really established brotherhood in this Parliament, who is the Deputy Speaker of this House. I want to congratulate him on his selection to serve as the running-mate for the APC in the forthcoming general elections.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I can use all the ten characteristics of a good leader and I have also seen all the ten characteristics of a good leader in Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah. I have known him for over ten years now and I have worked with him for at least five years. He is a man who likes to establish brotherhood in every working environment and in every relationship. This is because even when you hurt him, he would always call to tell you that you have hurt him. That is a very good characteristic of a good leader.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have also seen the Honourable Deputy Speaker serving as a servant leader. I have been opportune on to be engaged in workshops or seminars at the Tokeh Beach Hotel. During the course of the workshop, he has been very proactive in terms of acting in charge of all Members of Parliament in the mornings, afternoons and evenings. He would come around to ensure that every Member of Parliament is being served and is satisfied before he considered himself. That is the servant leadership I saw in him. I have no doubt that he was going to attain a level he has attained today.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of this Parliament, I want to say congratulations to the Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah. However, I want to state here that Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah is going to a very tough race with the Sierra Leone Peoples Party [SLPP] and other political parties.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of this House and my constituents, I say congratulations. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON. NAVO KAIKAI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to say few words. I am going to be very neutral because he is a Fullah by tribe and my husband is a Fullah. That makes him my husband, by extension. I have known him for a couple of years; but for the past one year since I have been in this House, we have come to know each other more than before. I have known him to be a problem solver. For instance, there was a problem in Parliament which nobody knew. I contacted him whilst I was in the UK and he handled the issue professionally without anybody knowing. So, I want to state here that he is a good leader because somebody

who deals with situation without letting the public know about it is a good leader. The only unfortunate thing is that I will not be the second lady because he is not going to win this election. The SLPP is going to win it and I will not be campaigning for him. However, I want to congratulate him on his appointment as the running mate for the APC. S.O 2, 'we know know you, en we know know the flag bearer.' Thank you very much *[Laughter]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Navo Kaikai, I like that.

HON. DISCKSON ROGERS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my own congratulatory message is not going directly to Honourable Chernor R. M Bah. It is going to His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, for at least keeping to his promise by giving us Mr Samura Kamara and Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah. I thank you very much.

HON. PATRICIA U. DANCAY BANGURA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today is one of those days that this Honourable House has been longing for for a very long time. I rise to join my colleagues in congratulating the Deputy Speaker of this Honourable House, Honourable Chernor Ramadan Maju Bah. He is the youngest running mate in Africa. It is indeed very emotional for me to stand here because this is the first time in the history of this country, the sub-region and Africa when a young, dynamic and popular Member of Parliament is being nominated as running mate for the second highest office in this country *[Applause]*. We are very happy because as a Parliament, if one of us wins, it is a win for all of us in this Parliament; and when one of us is a winner, all of us are winners. Therefore, I want to congratulate the Honourable Deputy Speaker of this House for attaining this position.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is a blessing from God because this young man is an Honourable man; he is a religious person and he is very faithful to his family and this country. He deserves this position. On behalf of the people of Constituency 060 in the Kambia District, I would like to thank His Excellency the President, who is also the Leader and Chairman of the APC Party for nominating the Honourable Deputy Speaker of this House to that position. It is indeed a history in the making.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our Deputy Speaker is very prayerful and God fearing man. I am saying this because anytime I go to his office, I usually find him praying. Sometimes I asked myself why I always find this man praying anytime I come to his office. This tells you that he believes in God. He is a religious person and this blessing came from God through our Chairman and Leader. Therefore, most of us have no doubt why this happened because he himself did not know that this is going to happen to him, but it has happened. This is a lesson to all of us to believe in God. If you have not believed in Him, start believing in Him today because with God all things are possible.

Again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to congratulate Honourable Chernor Maju Ramadan Bah. The word Ramadan means the holy month of Ramadan and this is his name. He is a holy man and that is why his name is included in the month of Ramadan. Congratulations, Honourable Member.

HON. HELEN KUYEMBEH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to congratulate the Deputy Speaker of this House for his elevation. But before I do that, let me quickly bring this information to this House and to the general public that it is the responsibility of this House, as Parliament, to recognise and congratulate one of us [*Applause*]. This has nothing to do with politics and I have stated in this House, over and over, that when national issues are brought up, then we talk about national issues. And what we are discussing here is a national issue. When we go out there, we discuss politics; but in this House, we have to discuss national issues. I am saying this for our brothers and sisters out there watching us on TV or listening or who may hear it on WhatSapp to understand that as their representatives, it is our moral obligation to value and respect our colleague for a work well done.

On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to heartily congratulate the Deputy Speaker of this House for his elevation to the position of running mate of his political party. He deserved all the accolades that have been showered on him, except if people are not true to themselves [like the Honourable Speaker always says], but he deserves them. Let me just quickly say that I as a person, I have personally worked

directly with the Deputy Speaker as a Member of the Public Accounts Committee and during that period, I have experienced his leadership, his fairness and genuineness in everything that he has done *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we came to Parliament in 2013, we lost our dear friend and colleague, Honourable Alice Foya; may her soul rest in peace. It was during that burial ceremony I came to recognise the leadership qualities in the Deputy Speaker. I was new in Parliament, but I did have the experience because I have worked in many institutions and I can figure out a leader when I see one. At that time, I saw the Deputy Speaker took the leadership in that burial ceremony. He used to go to the house every day, coordinating together with the Minority Leader every aspect of that ceremony, from Freetown to the burial site in Kailahun. I was very impressed because I have lived in this country, grown here, schooled here and I have worked in the Civil Service. This means that I know a little bit about this country. So I am sorry if what I am about to say will hurt some of you, but the reality is that leaders used to sit and fold their hands and wait for things to be done for them. That is what leadership is in this country has been, except now that it is gradually changing.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I saw somebody at the helm of affairs, deciding to be a servant leader by doing what is expected of us as servants of the people, I was very impressed. I am sure [though others may not be satisfactorily pleased with what he might have done], he must have touched the lives of every single person in this House one way or the other. So, having the opportunity to be elevated to that position, I think it behoves us, as Members of Parliament and as his colleagues, to give him accolades and recognise him. We have to value and respect him. The rest of whatever happened is part of his political party's business. But our business in this House is to recognise what he has done. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not want to make felicitations to my younger brother because I commended him to this House. And honestly Speaking, Sierra Leone is such a small country... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: I think you seconded his nomination.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Sierra Leone is such a small country that when the Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah was announced as running mate, I received over one thousand calls from the SLPP and APC members. People are saying that, **"your man is the running mate for the APC."** I said yes he is APC and I am SLPP. I respect him because he is a fine character. I do not befriend people because you are 'x,' 'y' and 'z.' I have to see something in you and I saw in him good character when we were in Fourah Bay College twenty years ago. They were three; i.e., himself, Alpha Wett and another fellow. They were very good people. I spotted them twenty years ago. I did not say I have said it all. I know that Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah is my younger brother and I want to congratulate you from the bottom of my heart. I wish you well; but I want to remind you, as stated by Honourable Navo Kaikai that it is unfortunate that you are coming at the wrong time. However, you will make it some other time. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON. P.C. MOHAMED SAMA KAILONDO BANYA IV: Thank you, Mr Speaker for allowing me to make my voice heard to the congratulatory messages. This is my tenth year in Parliament; and fortunately, I have been here with the Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah who has now been appointed as running mate to Dr Samura Mathew Wilson Kamara. In the first place, I want to congratulate him for his elevation. I want to make it known to this House and to the general public that this man has a lot of respect for traditional rulers. For the past years we have been in this House, he has been one of the few Members of Parliament who has giving a lot of respect to traditional rulers. So, I am personally happy for his elevation. I want to remind this House that those who respect traditional rulers are usually elevated and those who hate them or disrespect them are usually dropped. So, congratulations to you, Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah and I wish we will continue. We appreciate you and we thank you for all you have been doing for the chiefs in this House. Well, this is my last term and I am not going to contest again. I hope that if you win, you will be in position to accommodate the chiefs in this country. So, I want to thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

HON. P. C. SHEKU A.T. FASULUKU SONSIAMA III: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here on behalf of Kono District. For the information of this Honourable House, I am now the newly elected Chairman of National Council of Chiefs in Sierra Leone. So, on behalf of my colleagues, I want to use this opportunity this morning to congratulate our Deputy Speaker of this House. I also want to thank God the President of Sierra Leone for elevating him to the position of running mate for the APC Party. I wish him all the best.

HON. HASSAN A. SESAY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. Like the Honourable Patricia Dancay Bangura said, it is history in the making. I will like to queue from what another Member of Parliament from Bo said earlier that the issue that we are now dealing with is congratulating the Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah for being elevated as the running mate of the APC. Parliament is being respected and this is pointer to show that we deserve a stake in the governance of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is very little reason for you to hate Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah. Also, there is a little reason not to respect him because he is a respecter of people; no matter what the position is, he will always regard the age more than the office he occupied. That shows that he is man of humility and a man with modest character. I have no reason why I should not congratulate him and ask the people of this country on his behalf because it was in this Well of Parliament that the President said that he would lay his life for the youths of this country. He has done it by nominating the Deputy Speaker of this House, Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah as the running mate for the APC party. This means that the youth are now leaders; not the leaders of tomorrow, but our present leaders. He is indeed one of the exemplary characters in this House. He is one of the youths that is always respected by other youths. They are always proud to emulate his example because he has been there for them and he will always be there for them. As the saying goes, **“if you wash your hands clean, you can dine with kings.”**

With those few words, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you very much.

HON. JUSUFU B. MANSARAY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah is my younger brother. If you look at all other areas, he is a big man now, especially for Sierra Leone and the International Community. I want to thank God for his elevation to that position. Though we in the SLPP are going to win, his name is always going to be in the annals of this country. I want to inform him that his task is herculean. You have to make sure that you put Sierra Leone first. You have proved your mettle in some areas, but you still have a bigger task ahead. The task you have now is how are you going to challenge us in the SLPP? This time, we are very much confident that we are going to win these elections. However, the good thing about you is that you have families all over Sierra Leone. If the SLPP wins, we are going to ensure that we make you very comfortable.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah has done his bit and we always appreciate him being my Godfather, please continue the faith and continue to be prayerful. It will be well, but the SLPP will give you the support when we shall have won the elections. Thank you very much and congratulations.

HON. ALPHA B. LEWALLY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to take this special moment to congratulate a friend, brother and father. I want to thank His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma for choosing our brother, Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah. Mr Speaker, let me make this very clear to this House that I want to thank the Speaker of this House, Honourable S. B. B. Dumbuya. In 2007, he sighted this young man. He invited us in his office and promised to stand by us, especially the Deputy Speaker. I want to believe that if we are thanking God and His Excellency, we should also thank the Speaker of this House for supporting this young man up to this moment *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I had the opportunity to attend the Methodist Boys High School, from form I-V. We used to sing a song which I will sing today. The song is: 'Courage brother do not stumble, though thy path be dark at night...' The last stanza

says, 'there are stars to guide the humble, trust in God and do the right.' I believe what has taken place here this morning is a description of this young man. Mr Speaker, because we are enjoying religious tolerance, let me go back to one of the suras in the Holy Quran, which is the Sura of repentance. Mr Speaker, the transliteration for that particular verse is, 'there has come from amongst yourselves a friend.

HON. FODAY RADO YOKIE: Point of Order, Mr Speaker. That is not the transliteration of that verse.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Alpha B. Lewally, please continue.

HON. ALPHA B. LEWALLY: I want to entreat the Honourable Foday Rado Yokie that I studied the Transliteration of the Exegesis of the Holy Quran. The transliteration for that verse says: 'Now I come unto you, a friend and a brother; but I will call him a messenger because he has been guiding us from amongst ourselves. This time I was hoping that Members of Parliament from the other side would come together, devoid of political differences and put Parliament first.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member that is precisely what they have done.

HON. ALPHA B. LEWALLY: My wife and I had a third son and my wife suggested that we should name him after the Deputy Speaker. She said, "**don't you want my son to become a Deputy Speaker? Don't you want my son to be like Chernor? I want my son to become the next Obama in the USA.**"

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is the type of young man God has given us. Let us accept and commit him to God for His guidance, protection and success. Let us pray for the Speaker for supporting us - the three wise men; vis-à-vis, Honourable Chernor R.M. Bah, myself and Honourable Nuru Deen. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

HON. NICHOLAS KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am going to be very brief and practical. I want to say thanks to the Almighty God who thought it necessary for the Deputy Speaker of this House to be nominated as a running mate. I want to

assure this House that the APC has already won the general elections. We have already won... - *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: That is not the spirit of this debate. Congratulate the man.

HON. NICHOLAS KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to congratulate my brother because of what he has done and what he is planning to do. He is going to make the APC continue to be in governance. I want to congratulate him on behalf of my people, Constituency 054. I thank very much.

HON. HANNAH BUNDU-SONGOWA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am not going to say much, but to bring compliments on behalf of the women of this country. We have celebrated the Deputy Speaker long ago when we awarded him 'the he or she' championship. The women of this country are happy and we are looking at it on a gender perspective. We hope when you make it there as the second man in this country, the women of this country will not be forgotten. He is my brother and everything. He has done wonderful things in this country. He is a gender advocate and I hope that more will be done for the women of this country. I thank His Excellency Dr Ernest Bai Koroma for giving him this opportunity.

HON. BRIMAH CONTEH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, 'the child is the father of the man.' This is what happens. It is now time for the youths to take positions in our societies. I was listening to the radio a moment ago and I heard about a 37 years old lady in New Zealand. In Europe, there is a 35 years old man; and in France, there is a 39 years old man. Today, we have somebody who is just above 40 years in our midst who has been nominated as running mate for the APC. If he is on this side, I will go all out for him to have it. It is a pity that I have to campaign against him. However, Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah is a Leader. He leads us in the ECOWAS Parliament. He is also seen here leading, socialising and recognising the chiefs and the elders, particularly those from Kingtom, Maypark. I want to congratulate him. This is the beginning of many things to come. The APC ticket is an Edwardian ticket. It is my ticket. Your partner in that ticket is my prodigy. You will be thinking why I am congratulating him. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON. AMADU M. KANU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having listened to what have been said about my brother, I want to start by thanking the Almighty God for making this glorious and historic moment a reality. Today is our own day and in our local parlance, S.O. 2, today na we yone day. It means 'today is our day.' To say the least among other things, I want to submit here that this Parliament is twice blessed. In fact, this Parliament is quadruple blessed because in 2007, this same Parliament produced for the people of this country a President that we refer to as the President of the millennium. He is a business President and teacher in the business of politics in Sierra Leone. That is why we have today my younger brother seated before us as a running mate for the APC.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Parliament is twice blessed because this Parliament has produced Ambassadors and Ministers, including the current Speaker of this House, Honourable Sheku Badara Basiru Dumbuya. I must also submit here that this Parliament is blessed to have produced a very young and dynamic legal luminary in the person of our Deputy Speaker of this noble House as the awaiting Vice President of this great nation come 2018.

HON. ABI KALOKOH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today marks the mile stone in the history of Sierra Leone. Today, we are here to celebrate Parliament, i.e., Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah. I want to use this podium to heartily congratulate him and I want to implore this House to pray for this young man for what he aspired to be manifested. I believe that leadership comes from God and God has chosen him because He sees his heart. From what I am seeing, I can see leadership in you and you are a man of the people. You are a servant who has come to serve the people of this country. On behalf of my constituents, I want to congratulate you. I also want to use this podium to thank the President for the paradigm shift. You have changed the baton for us the young people. We wish you a blessed day. May God bless you and give you what you ask for. I thank you.

HON KOMBA E. KOEDYOYOMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have listened with keen interest, the congratulatory messages which have been poured on my son.

As a father, I will not say much because much has already been said about this young man. My only message to him is that I congratulate him on behalf of my own personal self and on behalf of my family. I have worked with Honourable Chernor R.M. Bah for the last couple of years when he became the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of which I am a member. I have not found him wanting and I am praying that the aspirations which have been expressed here will be actualised in March, 2018. Honourable Chernor R.M. Bah, I want to congratulate you and I wish you well. May God continue to bless you. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON. SAHR FATORMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of my family, the Fatorma Family of Kailahun District and the people of the Kailahun District, I wish you a failed election [*Undertones and Laughter*].

HON. FRANCIS A. KONUWA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this House has demonstrated that we are indeed a family. We have been practicing politics of recognition and appreciation and that has been clearly seen in this House today. I do not want to say much because I do not have the time and other members from both isles have almost said everything. I want to congratulate the Deputy Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, my family and my very self. I wish him well.

HON. FRANK KPOSOWA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President Dr Ernest Bai Koroma in his capacity as Chairman and Leader of his party has, in exercise of his absolute wisdom, looked into the seeds of time to see which ones will grow and which ones will not. He has selected the Honourable Deputy Speaker. Mr Speaker, ambition is almost always defined sometimes as a trial. You would agree with me that in pursuant of it, you will come across disappointment and in some cases success stories. What has also always happened is that those who almost always achieve it probably never had it. So, let it be with Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah. I will join my colleagues in congratulating the Honourable Deputy Speaker. It is sad that you are on the other side.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to congratulate our colleague Member of Parliament on behalf of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party [SLPP]. It is great and tremendous that one of us has been nominated to be on

the ticket of the APC. But for us in the SLPP, especially having a fine gentleman who has been nominated to be the second man on the APC ticket, we somehow felt it so much because at this time, we in the SLPP will win the 2018 general elections. I want to encourage you my dear brother to be who you are, will be most served and you will be most useful to your country in all of the capacities that you will find yourself.

On behalf of the SLPP, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to congratulate him and I want him to know that at one time he was one of us and so him being our brother, we wish him well. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let us imagine that we agree with the SLPP in terms of winning the 2018 general elections on the condition that Honourable Chernor R.M. Bah is still Vice President. Predicated on that, we will let you win, so that this country will not lose a very competent person that God has chosen for us at this moment in time. I want to thank all the Members of Parliament that have spoken and all those who have not spoken. May God listen to all the sentiments you have expressed. May God answer your prayers. We have spoken on behalf of this country; and one of the key functions of Parliament is representation. Mr Speaker, since we are all representing various sectors in this country, I hope you have spoken on behalf of the people of this country. There is a saying that the voice of the people is the voice of God.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is an irony going on presently in this country that even those who know Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah very well are saying that they do not know him. They are following the queue, but anybody who touches Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah's life, even for a short moment, will know the type of person he is. All the qualities that make a good leader, starting from humbleness to good manners, understanding and pity are all embedded in this young man. He touches the lives of everybody who comes across him. You will never go unimpressed when you come into contact with the Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah. He is a Member of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, a Committee that I chair in Parliament. His contributions, modesty and relationship to the people who usually come for interview

always go with good impression about this young man. God gave wisdom to our President to make sure that the APC Convention produced a man who is very humble. To me, this is a blessing in disguise not only to Parliament, but to this nation as a whole.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the period of time to the elections is too long. I wish the time is tomorrow, so that we can have the new Vice President and see what he will do for this country. We are all very happy in Parliament and we are proud of this man because listening to the sentiments we have expressed, that is enough to tell the people out there that they have got a leader and a servant. We know him better than the rest of the population, so we should all go out as ambassadors and speak on behalf of this gentleman to tell Sierra Leoneans that he is going to make the difference when he becomes the Vice President. We will continue to pray for him. May Allah/God guide him, so that he can get to that position. The voice of the people is the voice of God. We hope that having spoken, we will vote for him as Vice President during the 2018 general elections. We want to thank you for your sentiments. There are people who have almost moved with tears. That shows the degree of appreciation and the belief they have in this young man.

Having said that, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to advise Honourable Chernor R.M. Bah to live to our expectations. We have no doubt that he will live to our expectations and you will not forget this House. We do not want your appreciation until you become Vice President. We have already seen in the present President that whoever comes from Parliament would appreciate Parliament when he is in that position. I know that you are going to follow the examples of His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma because he has done much for Parliament. Those are the foundations we want you to build upon when you become Vice President tomorrow.

Once again, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we want to congratulate you and we want to thank God for your life and pray that you become Vice President sooner than later. I want to thank all those who have spoken and I want to thank you very much on behalf of the party. Honourable Chernor Maju Bah comes from a party and having

expressed all those sentiments about him, we want to appreciate you. Thank you very much.

HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, by a way of response, I would want to appreciate all those who made their voices heard this morning. For those who are unable to make their voices heard, they will do so other time. I want to agree with the Honourable Acting Minority Leader when he used the word 'was;' i.e., 'was one of us.' Well, I want to state here that I am one of you. I am one of you by being a Member of Parliament. I want to thank you very much and to assure you that by the will of God, even when I go down the road after the 7th March, 2018 my heart will be with Parliament. The Acting Minority Leader once said in a discussion we had on a number of occasions that 'this House is my House.' I have enjoyed each and every day I have been in this House and ten years is not equivalent to ten days or ten weeks. Ten years means ten years. If you are in the court as a Lawyer, you will be called to the High Court or the Superior Court of judicature. Now it seems I am going to the superior structure of governance *[Applause]*. I want to assure you that this is where I belong and this is my House. My heart is here and your prayers will help to push Sierra Leone forward beyond where Dr Ernest Bai Koroma will leave it. God blesses us all and thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I want to thank all those who have spoken and even those that did not have the opportunity to speak. I want to thank all of you for amply demonstrating maturity, particularly the opposition Members of Parliament. As the Honourable Helen Kuyembeh said and I want to agree with her that 'a Member of Parliament represents Parliament and Parliament means everyone that is here.' We should remember that Parliament is Parliament and we are a family; we are a fraternity; we are a society; we are a union; we are a company; and we are even a fellowship. That is why we must always sing the same song and that is why we must always being seen to be saying the same thing.

Honourable Members, when the Honourable Chernor R.M. Bah first came to Parliament in 2007, I was the Deputy Majority Leader. Since this time, Honourable Chernor R.M.

Bah and I have been working together. And one thing I have been able to discern in him all these years is that he is a fine and amiable character. His affability attracts him to everybody and that makes him a magnetic personality. Honourable Chernor R.M. Bah has a decent and pleasant disposition; no doubt you would agree with me that he comports himself and I would say he has been comporting himself with dignity. During the period when he served as Deputy Speaker, I found him to be exceedingly respectful, loyal and humble. I have also found him to be an immensely abled person who takes his work very seriously. Whatever is assigned to him, he executes well. He is a thorough somebody.

Honourable Members, what I personally like about Honourable Chernor R.M. Bah is his humility. We of the old school believe that the youths of today who only learn to be humble and respectful have every prospect to rise tomorrow. The word here is humility and be reminded of a famous writer who once said, **"Humility is a jewel worth a kingdom."** It was the writer Massinger who once said that **"it was pride that changed angels into devils, but it is humility that makes men as angels."** Honourable Chernor R. m. Bah is humble. My message then to the young generation is that 'soar not too high to fall, but stoop to rise.' Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah has been stooping and certainly he is going to rise. The Chinese philosopher and teacher of ethics, Confucius once said **"humility is the foundation of all the virtues."** Therefore, as long as you are humble, believe you me you will certainly rise.

Therefore, Honourable Members, on behalf of the Leadership of Parliament, on behalf of Parliament as a whole, not excluding the staff and on my own account and in my own name, I want to congratulate Honourable Chernor R. M. Bah. I wish him well.

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am requesting Members of the Legislative Committee to attend a meeting today. Thank you very much.

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister of Finance will present the 2018 Budget tomorrow, 27th October, 2017. Please convey this

message to our colleagues who are not here today to make sure they attend the proceedings tomorrow. Thank you very much.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI: Interestingly, Mr Speaker, I like the Deputy Majority Leader and Chairman of the Finance Committee to take cognisance of the fact that since 1996, certain actions have been followed by the Ministry of Finance, on behalf of Members of Parliament. Therefore, I am praying that it is on course.

HON. HASSAN B. SHERIFF: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we will take note of that and we will follow the queue.

AJOURNMENT

[The House Rose at 12.15 P.M. and was Adjourned to Friday, 27th October, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.]