

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

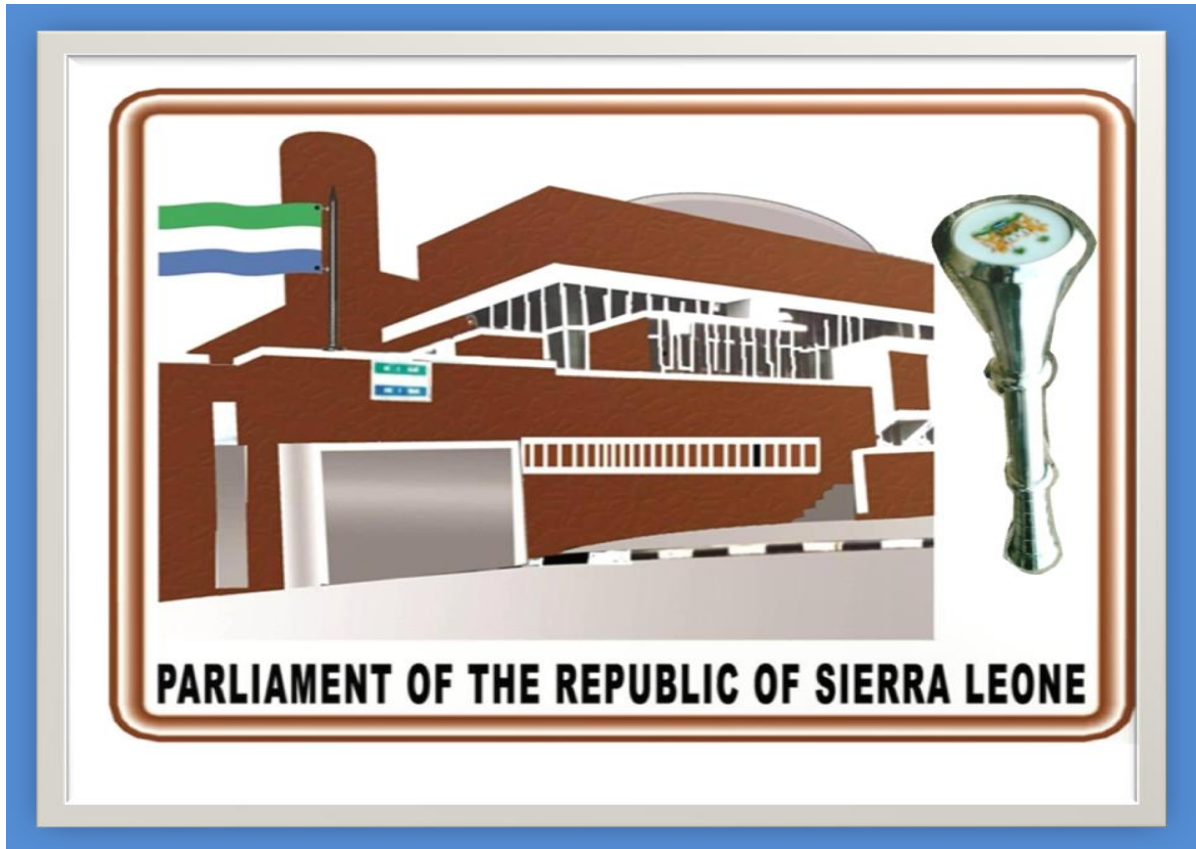
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIFTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2017

SESSION – 2016/2017



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: I

NUMBER: 59

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 Tuesday, 28th November, 2017.

CONTENTS

I. PRAYERS

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON FRIDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER, 2017

III. LAYING OF PAPERS

ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE

[i] GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER ON THE REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE 1991 SIERRA LEONE GAZETTE [EXTRAORDINARY] VOL. CXL VIII – NO. 79

[ii] THE NOMINATION FEES OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, ORDINARY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, PARAMOUNT CHIEF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, MEMBERS

OF LOCAL COUNCILS AND VILLAGE HEADMEN ORDER, 2017.

THE PUBLIC ELECTIONS ACT, 2012 [ACT NO.4 OF 2012]

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO.156 OF 2017

[iii] THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS [PRACTICING CERTIFICATE TEMPORARY REGISTRATION AND ENROLMENT FEES] RULES, 2017

THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT, 2000 [ACT NO.15 OF 2000]

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 158 OF 2017

[B] THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

THE FISHERIES [FEES] REGULATIONS, 2017

THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1994 [ACT NO.19 OF 1991]

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO.157 OF 2017

[C] THE MINISTER OF ENERGY

IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT RELATING TO THE BUMBUNA II PROJECT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND SELI HYDROPOWER LIMITED [AS THE COMPANY] AND JOULE BUMBUNA [HOLDINGS] LIMITED AND ENERGY SERVICES COMPANY LIMITED [AS THE SHAREHOLDERS] DATED 4TH AUGUST, 2017.

[D] THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS, 2017

THE PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 2016

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO.159 OF 2017

V. BILL

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 2018



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**

Tuesday, 28th November, 2017.

I. PRAYERS

[The Clerk of Parliament, Mr Ibrahim S. Sesay, Read the Prayers].

[The House met at 10:50 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown].

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

The House was called to Order

II. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON FRIDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER, 2017

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Friday, 3rd November, 2017. Page 1? Page 2? Page 3? Page 4? Page 5? Page 6? There being no correction or amendment, could somebody move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Friday, 3rd November, 2017 as presented?

HON. AMADU FOFANAH: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. FRANK KPOSOWA: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting held on Friday, 3rd November, 2017 has been adopted as presented]

III. PAPER LAID

[A] THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE

THE SPEAKER: Mr Arrow Bockarie, you are now in Parliament and you must be prepared.

MR ARROW BOCKARIE *[Deputy Attorney-General and Minister of Justice]:*

Mr Speaker, Honourable members, I wish to lay on the Table the following documents:

[i] Government White Paper on the Report of the Constitutional Review Committee on the Review of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991, Sierra Leone Gazette [Extraordinary] Vol. CXL VIII – No. 79

[ii] The Nomination Fees of Presidential Candidates, Ordinary Members of Parliament, Paramount Chief Members of Parliament, Members of Local Councils and Village Headmen Order, 2017.

The Public Elections Act, 2012 [Act No.4 Of 2012]
Statutory Instrument No.156 Of 2017

[iii] The Legal Practitioners [Practicing Certificate Temporary Registration and Enrolment Fees] Rules, 2017.

The Legal Practitioners Act, 2000 [Act No.15 of 2000]
Statutory Instrument No. 158 of 2017

I thank you very much, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members.

[B] THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

MS ELIZABETH MANS-KANU [*Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources*]:

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following document:

The Fisheries [Fees] Regulations, 2017

The Fisheries Management and Development Act, 1994 [Act No.19 of 1991]

Statutory Instrument No.157 Of 2017

[C] THE MINISTER OF ENERGY

AMB. HENRY O. MACAULEY [*Minister of Energy*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following document:

Implementation Agreement Relating to the Bumbuna II Project between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Seli Hydropower Limited [as the Company] and Joule Bumbuna [Holdings] Limited and Energy Services Company Limited [as the Shareholders], Dated 4th August, 2017.

[D] THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MR MOMODU L. KARGBO [*Minister of Finance and Economic Development*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am laying before this House

this morning the following documents:

The Public Financial Management Regulations, 2017;

The Public Financial Management Act, 2016; and

Statutory Instrument No.159 of 2017.

I thank you very much.

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

PROPOSER: HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH

SECONDER: HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH [*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*]: The Rt. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Eleventh Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on parliamentary vetting of Presidential nominations.

1. Introduction

The Rt. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service met on Wednesday, 22nd November, 2017 and interviewed five Presidential nominees for appointments as follows:

- i. Two Members, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Advisory Council;
- ii. Member, Board of Directors, Bank of Sierra Leone;
- iii. Ex-Officio Member, Independent Media Commission
- iv. Board Member, Guma Valley Water Company; and
- v. Board Member, Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission.

2. Procedure

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee maintained strict consistency to its established rules of procedure. Probing questions put to the nominees covered wide ranging issues relating to their educational background so as to ensure that they have the relevant education and the necessary backup experience to man such important offices of state. Further questions put to the nominees covered issues pertaining to their track records in other pertinent work situations, declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for a nationally productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also closely looked into by the Committee.

3. Thirteenth Sitting of the Committee held on Wednesday, 22nd November, 2017

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

i. Dr Simeon Owizz Koroma, Proposed Member, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Advisory Council

Dr Simeon Owizz Koroma is a qualified and internationally renowned Medical Practitioner and the only Forensic Pathologist in Sierra Leone. He is also licensed to Practice in both the United Kingdom and the Gambia as of now. Presently, Dr Simeon Owizz Koroma is on contract employment with the Liberian Government as a Forensic Pathologist. Dr Simeon Koroma is a recipient of the national award of the Order of the Grand Commander of the Order of the Rokel [GCOR 2007] for exemplary and meritorious service in the field of medicine.

Asked to proffer possible solutions that would ameliorate the proliferation of drug abuse in this country, Dr Simeon Owizz Koroma said: **"I am very much au fait with the situation since I do all the autopsies on death resulting from drug abuse related cases. I know the networks from Suzan's Bay to Calaba Town, including all the Drug Laws and Cartels. If we can tighten-up our porous borders and bring to book drug smugglers and traders in the country, it will either stem-out or limit the intake of drugs by our youths. I believe I was specifically nominated by His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, to help ameliorate the proliferation of drug intake by our youths."**

On the enforcement of the National Drug Control Act, Dr Simeon Koroma said: **"You will agree with me that all of us have a national duty to ensure the successful implementation of the Act by either reporting or prosecuting anyone caught in the smuggling, trading and illegal use of drugs to the appropriate authorities."**

Reacting to further questions on time management considering his busy schedule as a pathologist, Dr Simeon Koroma said: **"I will schedule my time to ensure that all my official duties are performed diligently and efficiently."**

ii. Mr David Cobna Bertin, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Bank of Sierra Leone

Mr David Cobna Bertin is a Chartered Accountant and Public Financial Management Consultant with over thirty years' experience. He is currently the Managing Partner

of the David Bertin Accounting Firm. He has previously served in the Bank of Sierra Leone as Executive Officer and Director of Finance and Administration in the Road Maintenance Fund Administration respectively.

Responding to the Committee on his function as a Board Member of the Bank of Sierra Leone if approved by the House, Mr David Bertin said: **"As Board members, we are supposed to approve the budget of the bank and provide policy guidelines for its smooth operations. The Board is also responsible for determining the quantum of money issued by the bank. Finally, the Board supervises the internal operations of the bank."**

Answering further questions on what advice he would proffer to improve on the current exchange rate, Mr David Bertin said: **"In order for the bank to improve on the present exchange rate there is a strong need to improve on our agricultural productivity for export, especially for items like coffee, cocoa and cashew nuts. By the same token we should reduce as Sierra Leoneans our need for imported rice replacing same with locally grown rice."**

iii. Col. [Rtd] Edmond Nathaniel Taylor, Proposed Member, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Advisory Council

Colonel retired Edmond Taylor had an exciting and meritorious service in the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces [RSLAF]. From 2006 to 2008, Col. [Rtd] Edmond Taylor served at the peak of his military career as Director of Training, Education and Recruitment at the Ministry of Defence and later as Commander of the Fourth Infantry Brigade with Battalions in Kabala, Makeni, and Kono under his command. He is currently assisting at JOSDELVIA Trading and Construction Enterprise as Administrative Officer.

Responding to the Committee's inquiry on what he would offer on the Advisory Council, Col. [Rtd] Edmond Taylor said: **"I intend to do a lot of research on drug users and cartels and reveal such information to the Council for appropriate action."**

Col. [Rtd] Edmond Taylor further told the Committee thus: **"I believe the National Drug Control Act needs to be revisited to make it more potent and robust. The Agency responsible for the implementation of the Act must also be**

given adequate resources to execute its duties. I believe, this will help break the drug production and the distribution network thereby reducing drug abuse by our youths.”

iv. Mr Mustapha Sesay, Proposed Ex-Officio Member, Independent Media Commission

Mr Mustapha Sesay is a Media Practitioner with a strong public relations background. From February, 2015 to August, 2016 Mr Sesay served as the Communications Officer of the United Nations Population Fund. He also served as National Secretary General for the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists [SLAJ] from 2008–2010. He is currently working as a private media and business consultant.

Answering to a question on the independence of the Commission, Mr Mustapha Sesay said: **“The Independence of the Commission is provided for in the Act itself. The Sierra Leone Association of Journalist [SLAJ] and other media houses are ensuring that the Commission operates independently of other controls in the conduct of its official functions.”**

Responding to questions on the excesses of the media, Mr Mustapha Sesay said that in terms of the excesses, he was most interested in ensuring that journalists practice freely within the limits of the law. **“The issues, however, of underpaying journalists and the failure of media houses to renew their annual licenses are excesses that cannot be tolerated. I have recommended to the Independent Media Commission to strengthen its monitoring capacity so as to ensure that punitive measures are taken against defaulters,”** he said.

v. Engineer Festus Oba Jones, Proposed Board Member, Guma Valley Water Company

Eng. Festus Oba Jones is a certified Road Safety Professional and Civil Engineer of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents in the United Kingdom. He has to his credit over thirty-five years of work experience in various aspects of Civil Engineering, programme coordination, highway design and supervision, environmental impact and road safety assessment in the United Kingdom and Africa. Eng. Oba Jones is currently the Chief Engineer and Procurement Manager Techsult and Co. Limited.

Responding to enquiring questions on what new ideas he would be bringing to the Board if approved by the House, Eng. Festus Oba Jones promised to ensure compliance with the provisions of Section 61 of Guma Valley Water Company Act, which gives autonomy and power to the company to enforce regulations relating to fraudulently accessing the water provided by the company.

Asked to give an opinion on how to make the Guma Valley Water Company an efficient and sustainable water supply entity, Eng. Festus Jones said: **"For Guma Valley to succeed, all stakeholders, the public consumers and the Board have to know and ensure that for Guma to supply water on a sustainable basis, consumers have to regularly pay their water rate."** Hence, Eng. Festus Jones promised to reintroduce a system that keeps detailed information of every household, Government offices, public and private enterprises connection status in the archives of the Guma Valley Water Company. He also suggested that water pipes be submerged at least two meters below the ground. That, he said, would help to address illegal connections, breakages and wastages.

4. Fourteenth Sitting Of The Committee Held On Monday 27th November 2017

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

Mr Leslie R. Thomas, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission

Mr Leslie Thomas is a certified member of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of the United Kingdom with a wealth of work experience in several institutions in Sierra Leone and abroad. He is currently the Executive Secretary, Sierra Leone Employers Federation [2013 to date]. He had previously served as Corporate Secretary and Human Resources Manager, Guma Valley Water Company [2004-2013].

Reacting to the Committee's inquiries on what he would be taking to the Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission, Mr Leslie Thomas said: **"I have had a wealth of experience serving not only at the Aureol Tobacco Company, Shell and the Public Sectors in Sierra Leone but also at the British American Tobacco Company in both Sierra Leone and Uganda. As a**

regulatory Board, the Commission will need to look at both the interest of the consuming public and the best interest of the service provider. I will draw on my experience in the private sector to ensure that the Commission works effectively and efficiently to achieve the goals for which the institution was established. I will further ensure value for money and to work assiduously for the success of the Commission. I promise to draw on both knowledge and experience gained in other work situations to ensure financial accountability and transparency.”

Answering to further questions, Mr Leslie Thomas said: **“I represent the Employers Federation on the Commission. I have been nominated by the President to serve on the Commission. As a private citizen, I will work in the best interest of the citizenry.”**

5. Recommendation[s]

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominees to be adequately qualified for their proposed appointments and are accordingly recommended to the House for approval:

- i. Dr Simeon Owizz Koroma, Member, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Advisory Council;
- ii. Mr David Cobna Bertin, Member, Board of Directors, Bank of Sierra Leone;
- iii. Col. [Rtd] Edmond Nathaniel Taylor, Member, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Advisory Council;
- iv. Mr Mustapha Sesay, Ex-Officio Member, Independent Media Commission;
- v. Eng. Festus Oba Jones, Board Member, Guma Valley Water Company; and
- vi. Mr Leslie R. Thomas, Board Member, Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Eleventh Report is the unanimous decision of the Committee. I therefore move that the Eleventh Report of the Fifth Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved. Signed by Honourable Leonard S. Fofanah, Chairman

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I second the Motion.

[Question Proposed]

HON. KOMBA E. KOEDOYOMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think the presentation made in proposing these nominees for their final approval has said it all and I do not want to waste the precious time of this Honourable House as well as the nominees, who are now waiting to go and do the work for which they have been nominated. Therefore, I want to entreat this Honourable House to quickly accept the Report which has been read to this House by the Majority Leader of this House. Thank you very much.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service for the recommendations made to this Parliament. I want to remind the nominees that they are coming at a period when we are about to hold our general elections. I want to caution them, especially the nominee who is going to Independent Media Commission [IMC]. We do not want to see IMC Commissioners in party uniforms, galvanising support for a particular party or flag-bearer candidate. He should be an independent person because in this process of elections, we rely on you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I join the Committee that we ratify these nominees. Thank you very much.

HON. FRANK KPOSOWA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if five distinguished Sierra Leoneans are sitting before kings today, and not merely men, it is because His Excellency the President has decided to borrow a leaf from Napoleon Bonaparte's policy of giving career open to talents. These are all men who have acquitted themselves well in life. I would like to say a few words about one of the nominees, Mr Mustapha Sesay. Mr Mustapha Sesay is a patriot and because of his stand on democracy when enemies of democracy have decided to take even to a level by inflicting serious injuries on him, he has always kept the faith. For somebody to have served SLAJ as Secretary General for two years means that person must be of a pedigree.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would preview the House to hasten his approval. Thank you very much.

HON. MOHAMED K. THOLLEY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will equally make a very short statement about these nominees. I know all of them are good in their different areas. I want to start with Dr Owizz Koroma. I look at this gentleman as a philanthropist who has done selfless job for this nation. I am not surprised if he is growing from one stage to the other. Indeed, he has helped this nation in terms of bringing justice from his own profession. A lot of things had been happening. We could not tell what kill 'x' or 'y,' but he professionally helped the court to dispense justice. A man of such calibre, if encouraged, will perform exceptionally well. Therefore, I want to call on this House to ratify this fine gentleman. I thank you.

HON. IBRAHIM BEN KARGBO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am going to be very brief because time is not on our side. I want to state here that the nominations made by the President again is consistent with the fact that he understands humanity. These are all very important people who have made their marks in society and I want to congratulate them now that they have been given these various assignments. I am going to state categorically that Dr Owizz Koroma, who has worked assiduously to ensure that medicine becomes a very important component of our society and who has not only trained young Doctors in this country, but who has also travelled the length and breadth of this country, digging up graves, giving reports etc. He is a man worth congratulating because he has served this nation well. Dr Owizz Koroma is a cousin of mine whom I would call 'old man' when both of us are together. He is also a great academician. And what I do not want us to forget in this country is to undermine academia. He is a great academic, but a man who has also worked very seriously. People do not even know that he carries the rank of Superintendent of Police because he also works closely with the Police force of Sierra Leone. We think that he is a man who has worked very well.

Also, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Leslie R. Thomas is also a great friend of mine. He is a man who has worked throughout Africa and a man who has made a name for himself. He is also a man who is seen by many in society as a great worker. I want to remind him and remind myself that even as young men, we used

to see together and discuss the issues of this country. I hope that he has stopped smoking rapidly and I also know that he would do very well wherever he goes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the other gentlemen, I know your nominations were deliberate by the President Dr Ernest Koroma simply because he realises the fact that you have the capacity and you are capable of serving this nation well. I will plead with my colleagues to approve these nominees. Thank you very much.

HON. ANSUMANA J. KAIKAI [*Acting Minority Leader of the House*]: I thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the nominees we have before us, as far as I am concerned, I have no problem with them because myself being a Member of the Appointments Committee had the privilege to receive all their submissions. And I found nothing as to cause them any harm from serving their country. In that regard, I want to ask this Honourable House to endorse the nominees of the President. I thank you.

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH [*Majority Leader of the House and Leader of Government Business*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would want to continue to dignify the statement made by the seconder of this Motion that he trusts the recommendations of the Committee and that the House should also approve what has been put before them. I want to thank the Honourable Members who have contributed. On behalf of the Committee and myself, I want to apologise for them that they do not have the relevant time to pay the tributes that they wanted to pay to the nominees we have before us. However, I would want to take pride to say that you have done a good job and for those who have spoken, they spoke for all of us. I thank you and I wish that we approve the nominees speedily. Thank you Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

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

THE SPEAKER: Gentlemen, on behalf of Parliament, I wish to congratulate all of you and wish you well. Among the nominees, there is an Edwardian whom I have the privilege to teach Latin. I am sure he would do well typical of the school he attended. Thank you very much.

V. BILL

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE APPROPRIATION ACT 2018

HON. EDWARD S. JENGO: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O. 26. I move that the Minister of Finance now discuss with Members of Parliament in Committee Room No.1 with respect to the update on the gratuity of Members of Parliament prior to the presentation of the Sub-Committee Reports.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, there is a suggestion. I am putting the question to you that having regard to certain things that concern Members of Parliament and in view of the fact that what Members of Parliament want does have a bearing on the Appropriation Reports, Members of Parliament meet with the Minister of Finance in Committee Room No.1 to discuss issues related thereto.

[Question Proposed Put and Agreed to]

HON. LEONARD S. FOFANAH: With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I have announcement to make if you can permit me. Honourable Members, this is a very important announcement for all Members of Parliament that there will be a pre-legislative meeting on the following Bills when Parliament adjourns today at 2p.m. The Fertilizer Authority Bill and the Seeds Certification Bill. Both Bills are coming from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security. Honourable Members, if you do not attend this meeting, you will be failing at your own peril. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The meeting in Committee Room No.1 is exclusively for Members of Parliament. Therefore, no strangers are allowed.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 11:40a.m. and was adjourned to Wednesday, 29th November, 2017 at 10 a.m.]