

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

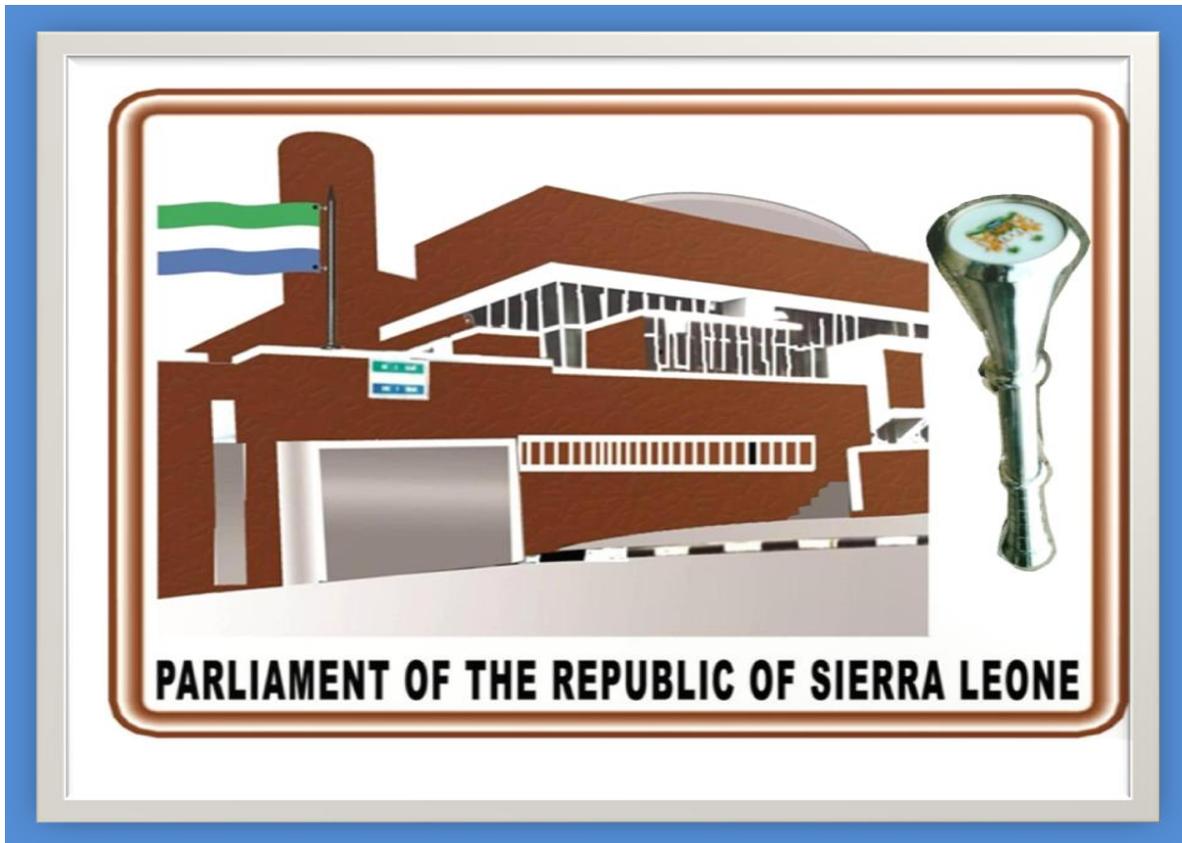
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

THIRD SESSION –FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 2025

SESSION – 2024/2025



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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First Meeting of the Third Session of the Sixth Parliament
of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
held on Tuesday, 16th December, 2025

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

THIRD SESSION – FIRST MEETING OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

TUESDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 2025

1. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Mrs Fatmata Bintu Winston, read the Prayers]

[The House met at 10:37 am in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

[The Speaker, Hon. Ibrahim Tawa Conteh, in the Chair]

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S. O. 5[2]

II. ADOPTION OF THE RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON FRIDAY, 5TH DECEMBER, 2025.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting, held on Friday, 5th December, 2025. As usual, we shall skip pages 1-4 and start with Page 5? Do you have any correction or amendment to make on Page 5?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY CONTEH: Page 5. Mr Speaker, under category three, Amendment of the Order Paper, I think the penultimate line says, Deputy Chairman, Honourable Fatmata Bintu Bockarie from Kenema District. I want to believe that the spelling of Bockarie is wrong and also the district. It supposed to be Bonthe District.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, have you seen that? It is supposed to be Bockarie from Bonthe District. I am just highlighting the correction. Bockarie is not correct, as well as the district. Do you have any other correction to make? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? If there is no further correction or amendment, can someone move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting, held on Friday, 5th December, 2025 as amended?

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. FALLAH K. TENGBEH: I so second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Friday, 5th December, 2025 has been adopted as amended]

III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, My only concern has to do with the attendance of Members of Parliament, more so with the Minister of Finance. We are in the final stage of approving the 2025 Fiscal year and we are in a serious period considering the completion of the Budget process. So, I believe it is one of the most important exercises that requires the full attendance of Members of Parliament to participate in the Budget process, especially the First and Second Reading. I expect Members of Parliament to be punctual and in attendance. Whatever that is going to be allocated to MDAS, it is going to be used for the implementation of the vision of our constituents. I know we are on recess, but I want to encourage Members of Parliament to please come, so that we can

complete the 2025 Fiscal Year successfully. That is just a piece of encouragement to Members of Parliament.

HON MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I heard you were talking about the completion of the 2025 Fiscal Year Budget. I want to thank you very much for that, but I want us to also bring MDAs to speed, especially those who have refused to appear before their Chairmen. We are not trying to create a platform to embarrass Vote Controllers, but we are trying to create a level playing field, so that there is transparency. If they do not come, we can move a Motion to withhold their budgets. This House will not approve their budgets. If they do not have documents, they are bound to come and engage their respective Chairmen. Mr Speaker, in terms of the Budget, there should be transparency. As a Parliament, we are doing the right thing and that is why they should not take us for granted. I personally called the Permanent Secretaries or Vote Controllers of the various MDAs to meet with the respective Committee Chairmen, so that they can discuss the 2025 Budget. Some of the Chairmen told me that they were contacted, but the Vote Controllers asked for permission to be excused.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, through the office of the Speaker, I want you to inform all MDAs about this decision. This is why we have suspended the relevant Section in the Standing Orders that has to do with the Fiscal Year, which is S.O 64. However, if they refused to come, we will not pass their budget and we should move a Motion regarding same. We should emphasis the fact that if they refused to come to Parliament for scrutiny, we will not pass their budget. They do not want to come and tell us how they were using their allocations. Thank you very much for bringing all of us to speed. Inasmuch as we are urging MDAs to be here, Members of Parliament should also have the moral responsibility to be in this Well to scrutinise the budget. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Leader of Government Business. I think the message is clear. I want to state here that MDAs that have failed to appear before the respective Committees of Supplies during the Appropriation exercise to explain how they have utilised their allocations and to give clarity on their KPIs that were included in the Budget estimates provided to Parliament will not have their budgets approved. This is because Parliament is approving the Budget, together with the budget estimates. The estimates give clear indication of the allocations to MDAs. Therefore, they are supposed to appear before these Committees to explain the policies as well as the utilisation of funds allocated to them. If they failed to appear, the Leader has said that this House should not consider any allocation for delinquent MDAs. That is a message and it is

clearly stated by the Leader of Government Business. I am sure it is carried and it is the opinion of the whole House.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, for the edification of this House, I want to know if you have received the Budget estimates. This is because if we have not received the budget estimates, we are not going to table the report. Mr Speaker, it is the estimate that we use to match with the financial report. The Chairman has the responsibility to inform us whether he has received those reports or not.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, have you checked with the post office?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Can I respond, Mr Speaker?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, before you respond, I would have to rely on you because when documents are brought here, they should be given to you and you are responsible for the distribution and notification of the House. In this situation, we are going to proceed with the next item, while the Clerk and the Chairman will continue to crosscheck whether the estimates were brought to this House or not.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I also believe that they can be deposited without using your office. You know very well that we cannot table the report without receiving the budget estimates. If they have it, let them bring it. We cannot proceed without that document. I beg to differ completely.

THE SPEAKER: What I am saying is that we can proceed with the next item on the Order Paper, while the Clerk and the Chairman of the Finance Committee do the necessary adjustment.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: You can stand the House down, so that they can give us the budget estimates; and once that is done, we will have to look at the budgeted estimates before coming to the Chamber. This is the right thing to do, Mr Speaker.

VI. PAPER LAID

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

MR REX BONAPHA [*Deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation*]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave, I beg to lay on the Table of this House, the following papers:

[i] supplementary Act A/SP.3/02/12 relating to the common rules on liberalisation of market access to ground handling services in Airports of Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] member states;

[ii] supplementary Act A/SP.4/02/12 relating to the common rules determining slot allocation at Airports in Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] member states;

[iii] supplementary Act A/SP.5/02/12 relating to the common rules on Air Carrier liability in case of accident in Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] member states;

[iv] supplementary Act A/SP.10/02/12 relating to the common rules on the approval of Air Carriers of Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] member states;

[v] Supplementary Act A/SP.6/02/12 relating to the common rules on Tariffs applicable to passengers, freight and mail for air transport within, from and to Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] member states;

[vi] supplementary Act A/SP.3/02/12 relating to the common rules on compensation to passengers in the event of denied boarding, cancellation or major delay of flights in Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] member states;

[vii] Supplementary Act A/SP.8/02/12 relating to the common rules on the conditions of access to Air Transport Markets in Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] member states;

[viii] supplementary Act A/SP.9/02/12 relating to the common rules on certain categories of agreements, decisions and concerted practices relating to rules of competition in Air transports services within Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] member states;

[ix] supplementary Act A/SP.11/02/12 relating to the common rules on Aviation Security in Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] member states.

[x] advanced Passengers Information [API] Regulations;

[xi] Drone Regulations; and

[xii] amendment to Article 10[4] of the Constitution of the Africa Civil Aviation Commission [AFCAC] adopted by the Twenty-Eight [28th] Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 31st January , 2017.

V. BILL

THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 2026

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

[FIRST ALLOTTED DAY]

THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

THE HOUSE RESOLVES INTO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

MRS KADIATUA ALLIE [Deputy Minister of Finance 1]: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the following Votes stand part of the schedule.

VOTES	DIV	VOTE DISCRPTION	AMOUNT [NLE]
304	01	Ministry of Health	132,192,700
323	01	National Public Health Agency	20,000,000
210	01	Office of national security	14,474,500
404	01	Ministry of Transport and Aviation	62,086,100
110	13	Presidential Initiatives for Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Food Security	10,316,600
317	01	Sierra Leone, Council for Postgraduate College of Health Specialties	1,000,000
307	01	National Medical Supplies Agencies	84,355,800
315	01	Teaching Hospitals Complex, Administration	1,000,000
346	01	Allied Health Professional Council	200,000
311	01	Health Service Commission	4,000,000
419	01	Local Content Agency	2,000,000
701	02	Kailahun District Council	15,373,202
701	11	Port Loko District Council	14,437,002

[Question Proposed]

Report of the 13th Appropriation Sub-Committee.

HON WUYATTA BERNADETTE SONGA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, pursuant to Section 113[3[A] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991 and Section 66[1&2] of the Standing Order of this Honourable House, the 13th Sub-Appropriation Committee of Supply, having meticulously examined the budgetary estimates, performance reports, financial statements and oral submissions of the assigned MDAs, hereby unanimously submit its report to Parliament.

Mr Chairman, the Committee, having taken due cognisance of prevailing fiscal constraints, micro economic conditions and national development priorities, recommends the approval of the 2026 budgetary allocation for all MDAs, including Local

Councils under its purview as contained in the Appropriation Bill, 2026, subject to the specific observations and recommendations outlined in this report.

Furthermore, the Committee urges the Ministry of Finance, Vote Controllers and Accounting Officers to give urgent and full effect to the Committee's recommendations, particularly those relating to timely and full disbursement of approved Budget.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, I want to make an observation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Go on, Honourable Member.

HON DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, what the Honourable Member is doing is not wrong by parliamentary practice, but out of experience and as a result of time management, especially when we have more Committees to make their presentations, we usually consider the Honourable Chairperson of the Committee to read the introductory pages of the report as stated. This is because we already have copies of the reports. I am not saying you are wrong, but we want to manage time.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, I want to welcome the Honourable Osman A. Timbo, the flag bearer aspirant of the APC. I saw him in America. You are wished well and please do not forget us.

THE CHAIRMAN: Was his visit to America part of the overall consultation?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Of course yes, Mr Chairman. He is a powerful man and he went with another flag bearer.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, it shows that he is ready to coalesce.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, he is moving very close to the front roll. Honourable Members, I do not think we have plenty reports today and I do not know which other reports are available after this report.

THE CHAIRMAN: I believe the submission made by the Honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition is appropriate. We should consider the reports as read as it used to be in the past. We then go to the key findings and recommendations and then we debate the report. This is where Members of Parliament will raise issues on the individual MDAs based on the findings that have been made available. I think we should proceed with the recommendations.

HON. WUYATTA B. SONGA: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Leader. I was doing just that because there is no way I can read all of the report. I will read only two pages.

Mr Chairman, the timely and full disbursement of approved budgets, strengthening domestic revenue mobilisation, especially for Local Councils, improving procurement

compliance and financial accountability, reduce over reliance on supplementary Budget and donor funding, and enhancing service delivery to the people of Sierra Leone.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the effective implementation of these recommendations will not only enhance fiscal discipline and transparency, but will also ensure that public resources translate into tangible development outcomes, improve service delivery and sustainable national growth. The MDAs and Account Heads are stated below:

Votes:

30401- Ministry of Health

32301- National Public Health Agency

21001- Office of National Security

40401- Ministry of Transport and Aviation

11013- Presidential Initiatives for Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Food Security

30701- National Medical Supply Agency

31701 Sierra Leone, Council for Postgraduate College of Health Specialties

31501- Teaching Hospitals Complex, Administration

34601- Allied Health Professional Council

31101- Health Service Commission

41901- Local Content Agency

70102- Kailahun District Council

70111- Port Loko District Council

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee humbly lays this report before the House and pray that it will be adopted. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, the report of Appropriation Committee of Supply, Group 13 has already been laid before the House. Honourable Members can now indicate their intentions to debate if you so wish to do so. I want to remind Members that this is a very important exercise.

HON. WUYATTA B. SONGA: Mr Chairman, I would also like to remind Members of Parliament that the report has already been uploaded in the system.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, I want to stand the House down for ten minutes.

[House was stood down at 11:14 a.m., and resumed at 11:30 a.m.]

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Thank you very much. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this is a very important exercise for us. I want to talk about the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health has a very important role to play in the Republic of Sierra Leone. Our population is more than eight million people. In consideration of the population of Sierra Leone, the task of the Minister of Health is huge.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please hold on for seconds. Where are the members of this Group? Let me call their names:

Honourable Tamba Simeon Johnny

Honourable Fallah K. Tengbeh

Honourable Hamidu Holla Mansarey

Honourable Zainab Bah

Honourable Beatrice Iyamide Langley

Honourable Ahmed Joseph Kanu

Honourable P.C Tamu Saffa Monya

Honourable Massay Ngahiteh Aruna

Honourable Abdul Karim Kanu

Honourable Osman Wurie Jalloh

Honourable Members, if the Members of Group 13 are not present, there is doubt with regard the work of the Group. How many Members of the Committee are here? there are only two Members plus the Chairperson who are here. Where is the Clerk of the Committee? If the members are not present here, the first thing that comes to mind is that at the time of your sessions, did you have a quorum? Mr Clerk, how many sessions did you hold; and during those sessions, were you able to form a quorum? If yes, where are your members? Are your members aware that you are going to present the report today? This is a serious indictment against Members of Parliament, whose primary mandate is to scrutinise the MDAs' budgets, but they are not present in the Chamber during the presentation of their report. This cast serious doubt on the report because they should be here to witness the debate of their report.

HON. TAMBA S. JOHNNY: Mr Chairman, I want to say something. I think the reason for the absence of some Members of the Group is that we were told that the report is only going to be laid today. Some of us are here because we are supposed to be here. However, Members were not informed that we are going to debate the report and most of us are new Members.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, if it were the First Session of the Sixth Parliament, I would understand, but this is the Third Session of the Sixth Parliament. So, nobody is new to this exercise; everybody knows and understands exactly how this exercise is being conducted. There is no way that Members, in their wildest imagination, expect the report to be just laid. The recommendations are going to be read by the Chairperson and Members will consider the report in the form of a debate. How can we consider a report when the Members of the Group are not present? We do not even have a quorum of the Members of the Group in the Chamber.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Mr Chairman, through your good office, I would therefore suggest that we move to the next Group while trying to call Members of this Group to come. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Joseph Williams-Lamin, please continue with your submission.

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairman. Today is a very significant day for the Republic of Sierra Leone. We are here to debate the nation's budget. Members of this House have been divided into 13 Committees and we are now deliberating on the submission of the 13th Report of the Sub-Appropriation Committee. I want to first register my thanks and appreciation to the Chairperson of the Committee and all Committee Members for their timely submission of their report to this House. As someone who has contributed to the development of the health sector in this nation and having worked in the hospitals for over twenty years, I want to talk about the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health is responsible for the well-being of the people of this nation, which comprises over eight million people. If you looked at the submission made by the Chairperson, it is stated that one hundred and thirty-two million, one hundred and ninety-two thousand, seven hundred Leones **[Le132,192,700]** was allocated to the Ministry of Health for the financial year 2026. Mr Chairman, I think it is justifiable to what they are doing.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, on the 4th November 2025, I left very early in the morning and travelled from Freetown to Matru Jong to supervise my educational support to Sierra Leone. On my way to Moyamba Junction, I saw four of the Ministry of Health trucks, carrying drugs to various locations. I want to inform this House that what I saw and what they did was remarkable and I must thank all those who were involved in the procurement of the medicines for our people in the provinces.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, under Vote 307 01, National Medical Supply Agency, I want to state here that what is happening in Sierra Leone, we are correcting ourselves. We have passed eating the food made in other countries that are less nutritious. Therefore, I am saying that the glucose level or diabetes is on the rise. Also,

the issue of HIV is on the rise in this country. If you looked at Page 53 of the report, you would realise that the Ministry will be launching a nationwide reproductive and child health programme, focusing on training of health workers and the procurement of the Human Immune Virus [HIV] and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome [AIDS] commodities. This is something I want to commend them for. Furthermore, I have seen health centers being constructed and well-equipped in various parts of the country. Mr Chairman, with all these good things I have mentioned, I think this report is justifiable. We cannot just provide structures, we should also provide trained and qualified medical personnel to deliver services and at the same time to provide medicines to the people. This Group is on the right trajectory.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, if you go to Vote 315 01, which is the Teaching Hospital and Complex Administration, you would see some powerful recommendations the Committee indicated in the report. Sometime ago, I interacted with Members of Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] who were in Sierra Leone, training our health professionals. I can state here that they are doing a very good job. I therefore encourage this House to humbly approve this Report. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Do we have any other contributor? I am concerned about few things that I have seen in the report. I am concerned about the fact that the Committee is proposing the passage of a legislation to manage the flow of emails. People are using their personal emails to transact businesses of the MDAs. How can we pass the legislation to manage the use of personal emails? I think it is a culture that we must discourage. I am sure government has an official emails that are in operation.

HON: WUYATTA B. SONGA: Mr Chairman, that was exactly our recommendation. Most of the MDAs that appeared before us were using personal emails and this is why we recommended that they should have official emails where official communication will be made. That was a typo, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is not a typo. I think the Whip of the Opposition said something, even though I am not supposed to respond to undertones, but he said that all the MDAs are using personal emails and this is a serious risk.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Chairman, throughout the seven years I have spent in this Parliament, we have had a situation wherein we always tell the MDAs not to communicate issues relating to government through their personal emails. This is because they are civil servants and they can be transferred from one Ministry to another. They are humans and anything can happen to them. However, whenever they come before us, they always indicate their personal emails. If you looked at all the

reports that will be discussed here, you would discover that all the email addresses being indicated are personal emails. The risk associated with that is that if they are dealing with international documents; first, they will even question the way you respond to them. How can you say you are sending information on behalf of the Parliament of Sierra Leone, for instance, when the email address reads as abdulkarimkamara@gmail.com? They will not even work or talk with you because it is not an official email. Sometimes people even complain, saying that they are still waiting for donors to communicate to us on issues relating to this or that. They will not respond because you are using a personal email. So, it is either through the Ministry of Finance we ensure that MDAs use their official emails for all official communications. Mr Chairman, some of these transactions we are dealing with will also have to do with financial transactions with other agencies that are outside Sierra Leone. So, imagine somebody is using his or her personal email address to collect sensible information about government, and even when he or relieved of his/her duties, he or she would still continue to communicate on behalf of the institution and that is a serious risk.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is exactly what I see. There are some documents you receive as Permanent Secretary that are classified, but if they are sent to your personal emails, they are no longer classified because you have access to them even beyond your tenure of service. I see this as a serious risk.

HON. TAMBA S. JOHNNY: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman for granting me the opportunity to add my voice to this report. Mr Chairman, this particular report was immaculately done and it was treated with a surgical precision. This is why the report lacks forgery, imitation and human flaws.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you saying the other reports that were presented to this House are forged? Have you ever seen a forge report presented to this House?

HON TAMBA S. JOHNNY: Mr Chairman, I am only trying to explain to you the veracity of how this report was treated and the way the Clerk, together with the Committee Members, put lots of efforts to compile this report. We want to say thanks to the Chairperson of the Committee and even the Parliamentary Budget Office [PBO]. This is because our own Committee was not like the other Committees that complained about the failure of MDAs to appear before the Committee. I think the Chairperson of the Finance Committee will testify to the fact that anytime he visited us, he would meet us busy. We were occupied throughout the days allotted for the exercise. We made sure that all the analyses done by the PBO are treated with utmost seriousness. Perhaps, the only thing I want to say here is the untimely disbursement of resources to most of these MDAs. This is because that has been their challenge. Like the adage says: "If you talk to the dog, do not forget to talk to the bone." Therefore, we want you

to make sure that the allocations to the various MDAs should be treated with the utmost seriousness. Please, make sure you do due diligence to these moneys because the lives of the people depend on these resources. For some of the MDAs, there were many inconsistencies in their documents. I would like to urge them to make sure that when coming to this House next year, they should prepare well. We will not take inexcusable excuses at all.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Chairperson was very emphatic in making her position on those issues. The recommendations you are now seeing, especially the one that has to do with private emails were adequately addressed. We told them time without number that you cannot privatise Government's documents. These are not your private property. You are hired by the President, or whosoever and by divine orchestration, you might not be there the next day. How do you want them to access a public document that you have privatised by using your personal emails? We brought that to their attention and they faithfully promised that by next year, they would make sure these things are not repeated.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, we also want to thank the media who gave us live coverage during the entire exercise. This is because we wanted our people to know that the moneys given by government to these MDAs are being utilised judiciously and we as Members of Parliament are performing our fundamental role in terms of holding the Executive Arm of Government to account.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we want to thank all the Clerks for their support towards this exercise. Just imagine, we ended this exercise on Monday; and today, we are here to debate this report. This shows how diligent the Chairperson, the Clerks and members were. The lead Clerk and his team never had enough sleep. All of us were on phones, trying to make things work. We scrutinised, discussed and agreed on everything before it is presented here. So, all the recommendations you are seeing in this report are the voices of each and every members that are present here. I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Honourable Member for his presentation.

HON. AARON A. ARUNA: Mr Chairman, this report underscores the reason why MDAs' cooperation is almost nothing to write home about. Almost all Chairmen we had discussions with revealed that some MDAs did not appear before their respective Committees and those who attempted came unprepared. This is because most MDAs have lost interest in the work of Parliament, especially budget scrutiny. We believe that one key attribute of a budget is credibility. Mr Chairman, for a budget to be credible, nobody is forcing government to disburse or to allocate resources to MDAs. It is our belief that whenever government allocates resources to MDAs, they should be able to

ensure adequate disbursements. However, this report shows the inability of the Ministry of Finance to disburse funds to MDAs. I refused to say late disbursement of funds. For instance, if you looked at the Sierra Leone Council for Postgraduate College, out of **Le3,281,000** that was appropriated and approved by this Parliament, only **Le492,000** was disbursed, accounting for **15%** as of September 2025.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the worst happened to the Medical Supply Agency. That Agency is very critical and that is the pillar that government uses to procure drugs to service the free healthcare and to service the cost of drugs the hospitals are using. Out of the amount appropriated by Parliament, which was **Le64,360,000**, only **Le1,000,000** was disbursed as of September and this is very alarming. The same goes to the Teaching Hospital Complex Administration. Out of **Le3,000,000** that was appropriated by Parliament, only **Le585,000** was actually disbursed to that Ministry. I think this is something we have to pay keen attention to, Mr Chairman. I do not know why the Committee did not take into account what was actually received by the Ministry of Health. They showed what was appropriated and what was allocated to the Ministry, but they were unable to tell us what they actually received for the Parent Ministry.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I am sure the questionnaire that was submitted required MDAs to provide actual expenditure, so that we can track their level of performance based on the available resources. I think we have to do something about this because it is rather unfortunate for us to allocate moneys to MDAs and then the Ministry of Finance failed to make adequate disbursements to these MDAs. Mr Chairman, this is making the budgetary process very disinteresting and this is clear in this year's appropriation. Almost all the Committees complained about the attitude of MDAs because they see no value in the work that we are doing as a Parliament. If we are appropriating moneys with the expectation that these moneys are supposed to be disbursed to deliver services to our people, but funds are not disbursed to them and this is very unfortunate. Mr Chairman, that is why when you go to most of these MDAs, you hardly see standard work done. It is not just about paying salaries, it is about service delivery. I believe if the Government is paying salaries, it has to be seen on the services being delivered.

THE CHAIRMAN: Where is the Chairman of the Finance Committee? This should not be a bilateral Agreement. He should be in this Chamber to listen to the concerns that are being raised by Members of Parliament. This is because most of these concerns should be channeled through the Finance Committee as part of his overall oversight responsibility. Mr Chairman of the Finance Committee, you should be in this Chamber at all time.

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Parliament needs to look into those issues, otherwise it they would keep appearing.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Honourable Deputy Leader II of the Opposition. His statements are legitimate and these are concerns that have been raised in this Chamber several times. I could remember in the Fifth Parliament and also during the First Session of the Sixth Parliament that these were concerns being repeatedly flagged up during the debate of the cub-appropriation Committee reports in respect of the untimely disbursement or non-disbursement of budget allocations. This is a recommendation made by the Committee. If you go through their report, I think it is stated on Page 7 under the caption, late or non-disbursement of allocated funds to MDAs. I think the Chairman of the Committee on Finance should work with the Ministry of Finance and the Accountant General regarding this particular issue. They should pay attention to Section 66[1] of the Public Financial Management Act, where the Accountant General is mandated to submit the quarterly Budget Performance Report of the General Purpose Financial Statements, so that the Chairperson of the Finance Committee will be able to understand exactly how allocations are disbursed monthly. This will enable you to pay attention to the monthly revenue raised by the National Revenue Authority [NRA] and it will also help to concentrate on reviewing the Treasury Single Account [TSA] This is because if you do not understand the disbursement pattern and the payment done by the Accountant General, then it will be difficult for you to follow up on this key recommendation.

Honourable Members, I am sure this is going to be the recommendations that will cut across all other Committees in terms of disbursements or non-disbursements. I encourage you to pay attention to that and let it form part of your oversight, particularly this year's oversight. It will help you to keep the Ministry of Finance and the Accountant General on their toes; it will also help the Committee to follow up on the budget performance because if the budget performance is unrealistic, then the appropriation exercise is meaningless. This is because when MDAs come, they have nothing to present and if that is the case, what are they going to account for; except for the policy actions. So, I think these recommendations are critical.

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

THE CHAIRMAN: In the report, the Ministry of Health claimed that most of their budget allocations were expended on overseas treatment. So, I have asked for the estimates for last year and I did not see it as part of their recurrent expenditures. The summary of their expenditure estimates did not include expenditures on overseas treatments and that is against the spirit of Regulation 30 of the Public Financial Management [PFM] Regulation. That is an unbudgeted expenditure. Madam Minister,

did they explain to you why they are spending money that is not in the estimates? If it is a policy, it has to be provided for maybe in the miscellaneous provision or the unallocated policy. Madam Minister, I want to hear from you. Can you help us on that? Why is it that they are spending money that is not part of their summary expenditure estimates for 2025? I did not see any amount allocated for overseas travel in respect of treatment of individuals or officers of MDAs. Madam Minister, do you want to address it now or do you want to take it as part of your responses?

KADIATU ALLIE [Deputy Minister of Finance I]: I will do that later.

HON. FALLAH K. TENGBEH: Mr Chairman, I want to say this for records that appropriation Group 13 was one of the best Committees. All our members were present and we had quorums throughout meetings. Also, I want to say it for the records that most of the MDAs we interfaced with were very cooperative. They submitted all necessary documentations required of them and they were abreast with the issues and their responses were satisfactory. As a Committee, we identified few gaps and those were challenges worth sharing in this Honourable House. There was a huge gap between budget submission and actual allocation. For example, in 2025, the Ministry of Health requested seven hundred million Leones to be used for their operations. Sadly, the Ministry of Finance only approved three hundred and forty million Leones. However, the Ministry of Health only received one hundred and fifty-four million Leones. How can you expect MDAs to perform when they do not have the required funds? Mr Chairman, inasmuch as we are encountering budgetary constraints, funds appropriated by Parliament should be disbursed to the respective MDAs.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Health's revenue target for 2025 FY was ten million, seven hundred Leones, but they only generated little over seven million Leones. This means there is a shortfall of two million, nine hundred Leones. The shortfall was attributed to the fact that more people have been added to the free health care category. Today, under the Ministry of Health, people with disabilities and rape victims are part of the Ministry's budget. This is why whatever budget that is being proposed by the Ministry of Finance should be provided or allocated to the Ministry of Health because they are carrying a huge portfolio. I would like to state here that health matters are not matters of fancy, they are matters of reality.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2026 FY, the Ministry of Health submitted a budget slightly above six hundred and ninety-one million Leones. Sadly, the Ministry of Finance only proposed one hundred and thirty two million Leones [**le132, 000,000**]. There is a shortfall of funds with regard to the expectations of the Ministry of Health. In other words, the Ministry of Finance proposed one hundred and thirty-two million Leones [**le132,000,000**], but based on passed records, we are afraid that they would

not reduce the amount that has been proposed in this budget. Madam Chair, we would like you, as a Committee, to recommend to the Minister of Finance to make sure that what has been proposed in this budget is fully remitted to the Ministry of Health. However, if you failed to do so, then you would be assuring us that we should be expecting too many health challenges for our people. Mr Chairman, the people of Constituency 002 in Kailahun District are expecting the Ministry of Health to provide basic health facilities to enable them live longer; but if the funds are not available as it stands now, it becomes an issue. If I am to do rating, I would rate our Chairperson Grade 1. She performed very well and that is why we are the first to write a very good report. I want to thank all Committee members for their efforts. I want to conclude by pleading with the Minister of Finance and the team to please ensure that what has been proposed, even though it is not enough, should be disbursed to the Ministry of Health for proper service delivery. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Chairman, we have seen all the allocations made to the various MDAs. Interestingly, it begs the question why most times when we decide to take this long route of going through the budget, even those who are supposed to speak on their behalf are not even here. I am sure not all the MDAs are represented here and this has been perennial problem. Mr Chairman, our problem is not the allocation or the debate; but the realistic nature of the budget. I want to see a budget that is realistic. The Ministry of Finance manages the national budget and they know what should be given to each Ministry. What we do every year is that we allocate figures to MDAs, but the actual amounts being disbursed are sometimes not even up to **20%**. If you know you cannot give these MDAs up to **20%**, why do we create the impression and build the confidence level of people by publicly pronouncing figures you cannot provide. If we do this to the Ministry of Health, you would realise that the people who are supposed to buy drugs will not have sufficient funds to do so. That is why when people go to the hospitals, they are only given prescriptions to buy drugs from the pharmacies because there are no drugs in the hospitals for the people and we keep blaming the Ministry for not doing anything. Mr Chairman, the Ministry of Health should not to be blamed; it is the Ministry of Finance that is not allocating adequate resources. I want the Ministry of Finance to be plain with us in respect of this budget. If they have allocated two billion to the Ministry of Health, let them stop telling us that they have allocated **7%** of our national budget to the Ministry of Health when in actual sense they are only disbursing two billion.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I am sure we have been debating figures or percentages. If you go to the Ministry of Education, it is the same thing. We approve

huge amount of money, but they ended up receiving pittance. Sadly, we have created a platform for our people to believe that we are addressing their issues in the health and education sectors, but the actual allocations are saying other things. If you looked at the 2026 Budget, you would realise that the Office of the Chief Minister and few other MDAs would receive more funds than these important MDAs. You would notice that the actual service delivery agencies of government are being starved of adequate funding. So, let the Ministry of Finance tell us the amount they will disburse to these MDAs, so that they will cut down their expenditures.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, if you looked at the Ministry of Health, you would realise that their problems are not new. You only ask for the procedures, but all of us know that when a Member of Parliament gets sick or a Minister or any member from MDAs, the requests are usually sent to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Health in turn costs all expenditures from their budget. So, no matter what you disburse to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry is considered a non-functioning Ministry. The Ministry of Finance needs to tell us what we should do. The question is why the Ministry of Finance is not making arrangement to procure these machines that make our people travel out of this country for treatments. I think we should buy these machines in order to save costs. If you compared the amounts of money we spend on overseas medical bills and the cost of buying these machines, it is better for us to procure the machines and other medical equipment. You would agree with me that we have spent more than what we need to build our medical infrastructure.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, it is only now we have initiated talks on having ten CT Scan machines in the country. I am sure we can do better than that, Mr Chairman. My concern is that let us calculate how much the Ministry of Finance can allocate to the Ministry of Health for overseas medical treatments; and let us know what we can allocate as a government. This is to ensure that whosoever is travelling for medical treatments must be within the stipulated framework, so that funds are set aside for that purpose. If the money finishes before the end of the year, so be it; but we cannot continue to utilise funds meant for our Peripheral Health Units [PHUs] or Clinical Health Centers [CHCs] for overseas medical travels. If you do this, you are killing more people than saving the few of us who are in the political class. We should not allow this to happen to our people.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, it is true that we need to save ourselves, but where is the national health scheme we have been talking about seven years ago. When we were enacting the Parliament Act, we talked about having a medical scheme for Members of Parliament, but we still depend on the health budget. Sadly, if you do not have the right connections, you would not get the necessary document to travel out

for medical treatments. Many people have applied, but they have been turned down. We always see the Ministry of Health to be the problem; but this Parliament has not allocated resources for that purpose. We are killing the Ministry of Health. That Ministry is purely a donor driven Ministry; therefore, whatever we allocate to them is just for the comfort of the political class and that must stop, Mr Chairman. Our people need medicines. Hepatitis is on the rampage and they need vaccine in the villages. If we do not get these vaccines into the interior, we will be risking our own lives. The major funder of Human Immune Virus [HIV] has withdrawn; and as a government, we need to spend more money on HIV, but we are still giving pittance. In fact, even what is allocated will not go to the Ministry of Health. So, we are at a major risk as a nation. How do we address these issues? We should call the budget allocated to the Ministry of Health as the affluence medical allowance meant for those who are connected.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, when the MDAs appeared before the Committee, they only accounted for their own source revenue, but if you looked at their budgets, you would see that what have been allocated to them and what we have debated here are far from the reality. Madam Minister, you had the opportunity to bring the supplementary budget; and in that supplementary budget, I want you to tell us what was in that budget. Please tell us you have allocated forty billion Leones to this Ministry, but what we can give them is two billion Leones. As a nation, we should know, so that we stop expecting services. I thank you, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Leader for his contributions and I think the process is a very serious process. I appreciate the fact that we are taking this exercise with the utmost seriousness. I also wish to state that the Budget that is brought to Parliament, pursuant to Section 32 of the Public Financial Management Act, is a proposal and that proposal, which will be approved, is dependent on a number of factors and those factors are stated in the Public Financial Management Act. The Budget is divided into several layers; there are those funded by the government and there are those we need to approve. The Ministry of Finance would project that they are going to be funded by donor partners through grants and there are those that are expected to be multilateral donor funding. This is why in Section 32 of the PFM Act, the estimates and expenditures presented by MDAs are supposed to be expenditures for three years; i.e., it can be addressed over a period of three years. What I agree or disagree is the fact that the expenditures from the Ministry of Finance to address problems of the political class with regard influence or affluence have gone across board. This needs to be properly explained, so that we will understand exactly from what sub-head they are taking the expenditure from, especially where they are debiting or crediting; or whether it is part of their public investments programme or part of their overall budget expenditure that is funded only by the government of Sierra Leone.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Chairman, I want to thank the Sub-Appropriation Group 13 for the work they did. They were able to properly look at the issues arising from the interactions we had with the various MDAs; and if we could carefully look at the issues they raised, we should ensure that as a Parliament, we provide permanent solutions to most of the problems they have flagged up. This is because the problems they highlighted are not new; they have been recurring year after year. Therefore, Members of Parliament should try to the best of our ability to ensure that we provide permanent solutions to most of the problems that are being raised.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, like what the Honourable Abdul K. Kamara said, it is like the work of Parliament is not useful if the discretion in the disbursement of funds is solely in the hands of the Ministry of Finance. To me, if Parliament has approved certain amounts for MDAs, they should ensure that when disbursing moneys, there should be some level of equity in the area of disbursements. You cannot give an MDA **3.3%** of what was totally approved by this Parliament. Interestingly, we have other MDAs they gave more than **100%** of what this Parliament approved. So, it shows that the work of the Parliament is almost useless because they failed to honour what this House approved. We spend hours to approve MDAs' allocations, but when they are disbursing funds, they do so as they feel without reference to what Parliament has approved. To me, the entire budgetary process is not useful if disbursements are not uniformed across MDAs. This is something we should provide permanent solution for because we are almost spending three weeks on this Budget process; and after all of this vigorous process, the Ministry of Finance disburses funds at based on their discretion. Sometimes I asked myself why we approved certain allocations for certain MDAs when these MDAs will never get what has been approved.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, we should have laid down principles which could clearly state that no MDA should receive more than the others when it comes to disbursements. This is why the disbursements should be in percentage. If, for instance, we decide to give all MDAs **20%** of what we approve, let it be uniform across the board, so that no MDA will have their projects strangulated or have their work being put on hold because of financial constraints. We have been leaving everything in the hands of the Ministry of Finance, whereas the work of Parliament is not recognised. I am of the opinion that we should do some adjustments to ensure that the percentages in terms of resource allocation are uniformed.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, there is another serious issue the Committee mentioned in this report and this Parliament should provide permanent solutions. The report states: **"The management of large-scale vehicle procurement through direct contract, coupled with massive supplementary requests raised**

significant concerns regarding adherence to public procurement regulations, value for money and fiscal discipline.” This is very important because when procurement procedures are not followed, there are consequences and there are implications. As a Parliament, we should suggest the pattern of budget circumvention or we should have an emergency spending model because under normal procedure, you would ask yourself, why the open competitive procurement methods were not used? Why were those procedures circumvented? Were these vehicles part of the original approved budget? This is because according to their findings, large-scale vehicle procurement did not go through the procurement procedures. Why this Parliament was asked to regularise spending after the approval of supplementary Budget? This means they did it and came to Parliament for corrective measures. To me, this is not about vehicles; it is about what I referred to as the executive impunity in public spending and erosion of parliamentary powers. This is because whatever that is not procedural should not be encouraged and this was significantly flagged up in this report.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the report also mentioned continued listing of major capital projects, like the Urban Mobility, Railway Feasibility within the Ministries' administrative budgets without clear funding lines and partnership details, which creates ambiguity and risk. Most times they use these capital intensive projects and hide them under administrative process. This is very serious and as a Parliament, I am sure we should provide a final solution to this problem. They even went ahead to state some of these capital intensive projects that are placed under administrative costs, such as Urban Mobility, Railway Feasibility Study, etc. Well, I want to thank them for a job well done. However, it should not be a procedure that when they make their recommendations they should just bring them to this Chamber and MPs debate them without taking the necessary steps. This is because they will just take the same report and submit the same findings in subsequent years. Let us ensure that we provide permanent solutions in order to prevent the occurrence of these problems. Sierra Leone is operating under a constrained budget and we must be able to help the situation.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I am also a member of a Steering Committee of the West Africa Health Organisation for Sierra Leone. Most times we give opportunities to the Ministry of Health to make budgetary presentations, but what is clear is the fact that anybody who seeks treatment from any MDAs that requires overseas treatments is adequately budgeted for under the Ministry of Health's budget. This means the Ministry is given allocations that will be used for overseas medical treatments. Sadly, they would just refer to the Ministry of Health, so that they can use their own budget. They always use their allocations to ensure that those with medical conditions are flown out of the country for treatments. Interestingly, the approval of any government official for

overseas treatments comes from the highest office, which is the Office of the President and the Ministry of Health cannot deny instructions coming directly from that Office.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, we should also create a budget line for medication of public officials, instead of using the funds allocated to the Ministry of Health. Most importantly, Honourable Abdul K. Kamara stated that we would forever continue to take people out of this country and use most of our revenue to take care of them. If we failed to capacitate our health sector, it would be a serious setback for us. Most of the medical equipment can be procured and train our doctors on how to use them, instead of us depending on foreign medication. To me, it is a worrisome situation. Since the Pop was an altar boy, we have been hearing about government officials being flown out of this country for medical treatments. When are we going to stop this as a nation? The only way we can stop this is when we are willing to empower our medical sector. Mr Chairman, those of us in the political class must be prepared and willing to capacitate our health sector. It is not only for us, but for people who are dying as a result of minor diseases. People who are not supposed to die are dying because of the poor conditions of our health sector. Our health sector is miserable. This is not just for the affluence or influential people, but for the ordinary people who danced and sang for us during the elections. We have to properly cater for them and we have to let them be at the centre of our decision making process.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, allocations have to be made in order to ensure that we procure important medical equipment. This will reduce the idea of people going to Ghana, Nigeria, England or India for medical treatments. I am sure if we can resolve this now, the generation coming after us will stop this menace and I am very convinced that this generation, if we are so resolved, with political will, we can capacitate our own hospitals to ensure that even the layman from the remote village, will be safe. This is very important, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, just about two weeks ago, I was seriously sick and coincidentally, I was to travel out of the country. I did not plan about my traveling because of my health condition. I went and I sought medical attention in another country; and in just two days, there was drastic improvement on my health. I want to advise all of us, as nation, that the idea of spending too much money on overseas treatments and refusing to capacitate our health sector is equally worrisome. Let us ensure that budgetary allocations are made through the Ministry of Health to enable them procure some of these machines. Let us ensure that our young medical doctors are sent out of the country for trainings; let them be given government scholarship, so that they can go out and upon their return, we will be given good conditions of service. Mr Chairman, when you look at the conditions of service for medical doctors, you would find out that if a medical doctor has the opportunity, he or she would prefer to practice in other countries instead of practicing in Sierra Leone

because our conditions of service are nothing to write home about. So, we should invest time and money in our medical sector and we should have an overall life expectancy in our medical sector. This is all I wanted to say with regard to report presented by Sub-appropriation Committee Group 13. I thank you, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. I requested the presence of the Director of Parliamentary Budget Office for a very strategic reason. Table Clerks, please take note and convey the message to the Office of the Clerk that at the completion of this budget cycle and before the commencement of the next budget circular in March, let the Clerk ensure that Members of Parliament should be properly trained with regard the PFM Act. This is because I see lots of gaps between our contributions, the report and the PFM Act. First, the allocation of resources to MDAs depends on Sections 48 and 49 of the PFM Act PFM. There is a Cash Management Committee and also a Forecast Committee. Those Committees, the presentation and availability of resources they made to the Minister are what the Minister used for allocations of disbursements to MDAs. You have to take note of it.

Honourable Members, I also raised the issue of overseas travels. We should ensure that the estimates for last year should be the same estimates we should use for this year because that is what we are examining. We are examining last year's estimates as budget performance for this year. So, I have realised that on Page 523, under vote head 304, that one of their subheads, which is **11030128** is seen as the country's medical treatment for Sierra Leoneans who are in need of medical care. This shows that the budget estimates actually captured overseas treatments. So, the report should also reflect what is in the estimates. Similarly on Page 573 of Vote Head 404, you will see procurement and supply of government vehicles under sub-head **1011302010602** and this shows that the procurements during the period were already captured in the estimates. Also, for Vote 1011302010702, which has to do with data collection under Vote 404, Ministry of Transport, it is the same for the Integrated Resilient Urban Mobility Project. Most of them are captured in this report.

Honourable Members, the reason for asking the Director of PBO to be here is because they should be able to provide a summary of allocations for the various MDAs to the sub-appropriation Committees, so that they understand exactly what was in the estimates; what they are going to review; what has been allocated in their current budget; what was approved in that budget; and how it was allocated. This will help the Committees to be able to present a report that is clear and better arranged in a format wherein MPs in the Chamber who were not opportune to view the estimates for those votes, will be able to understand that this is how the votes are being structured.

HON. WUYATTA B. SONGA: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I will be brief. I just wanted to throw light on the overseas treatments for last year. Last year, the initial allocation was **11.6%** of the budget to the Ministry of Health and that was later reversed. Before the presentation of the budget, it was reversed to **7%** and the reason was that it was noted that overseas treatments were happening all over without proper procedures. Presently, every approval for overseas treatments go through the Office of the President because they provide the comprehensive reports as to how decisions were made for people to be taken out of this country. When this was established, that was the time the budget was reversed. However, what I am trying to highlight is the fact that by next year, we will have two major issues in the health sector, and one of them was already picked up by one of my colleagues, which is the HIV and AIDS support we have been enjoying in this country has been aborted. This means we are now facing huge problems. I can categorically state here that HIV and AIDs has become a pandemic in this country.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, from the records presented, they said it is still **1%** of the eight million population of this country.

HON: WUYATTA B. SONGA: Mr Chairman, there is a review document that will be released shortly and I can assure you of that. What I am saying here is that for HIV treatments and surveillance to continue in this country, we need to have some budgetary allocations because that is worrisome. Moreover, before the end of next year, the free healthcare drugs support will also be terminated because the counterpart funding we are supposed to get is not forth coming. Therefore, the partners have decided to withdraw their supports by the end of next year if we failed to meet our counterpart obligations. Even though the Ministry of Finance has agreed to honour that obligation, there are some points where the donors feel that the time is long overdue and they cannot continue to support us. Mr Chairman, conversations and discussions are ongoing, but that is another worrisome development for us as a nation. This is happening due to lack of funding for the Ministry of Health. According to the Maputo Convention, every country is recommended to allocate **10%** of their budget to the health sector. As we speak, we have done well by generating **8%**, but we are still delaying to achieve the Convention's requirements. Mr Chairman, I am just pleading that whatever little we have allocated to the Ministry of Health, let the disbursements be regular; if not, we are going to have a huge problem in the health sector.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, you would agree with me that when the budget was read here, you heard that life expectancy has been improved. If we do not do something towards our health sector, we are definitely going to see a decrease in our life expectancy and the repercussion for that will not be good for this nation. Inasmuch

as I have heard what people said about the importance of agriculture, I have also seen situations wherein when you are not healthy, you do not even want to see food or smell its aroma. I know that water is important, but when you are sick, sometimes for you to even take a sip of water is difficult. They resort to giving you drips. So, health is so important and that cannot be over emphasised. However, we have to focus on health if we want to live longer. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Honourable Chairperson of the Committee and the President of Female Caucus for her contribution. I think there are a number of factors and concerns we should look into. I am not a medical person, but I am concerned by the fact that for all other diseases that have ravaged the globe, people have developed high immunity. However, people have not developed high immunity for HIV. I do not know the reasons for that, but people developed high immunity during Covid-19 and it got to a point where Covid-19 was not potent anymore, according to medical studies. Countries develop high immunity by the proliferation rate of infections. I am not saying Members should be reckless with their health, I am just saying this based on the medical experience because I am not a medical person.

Honourable Members, I know partners who were supporting the Ministry of Health directly, but they are now going to channel their funds through the World Health Organisation [WHO], so that those funds will go into the overall basket and can be recognised as part of their contributions. This means we are going to face some constraints with resources. The resources we used to receive directly will now be released indirectly, maybe at **20%**. So, these are all challenges we have to grapple with because the budget projection from the Ministry of Finance is inclusive of all the proposals or all other counterpart supports they expect. That is the accumulation. Also, your budget projection is what will attract donor partners to support specific sectors, like Health, Agriculture, etc. Therefore, when we say the budget should be realistic, it does not mean Government is going to give ten Leones to the Ministry of Health. If we do so, then we are lowering our aspirations and donor partners will not be interested in supporting us. So, we have to increase our expectations in sync with our aspirations. Whatever aspirations we have, donor partners can now come and support us. We should not be Manchester United who do not aspire for anything. This is because when they score against a team today, they will score against themselves tomorrow. Please, let us have aspirations like Man City.

Honourable Members, I want the Director of PFM to work with the Director of PBO, so that they design training programmes or capacity building programmes for Members of Parliament with regard the PFM Act and the allocations, so that MPs will understand exactly the tools they should use for the assessment of the budget.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. To start with, I want to thank Honourable Bernadette Wuyatta Songa, the newest appropriation Chairperson who happens to be the first person to table her report. Mr Chairman, during the appropriation process, I used to go round to monitor what is happening in the different groups. I must state here that there was decorum in Group 13 at all times and I was really impressed with their conduct. I want to thank all Honourable Members in that group and the MDAs that were assigned to that group. This is because they made the group to be effective and the MDAs were very cooperative. Mr Chairman, it will surprise you to note that there are still some MDAs that are yet to show up, but I want to assure you that we are compiling the list of those MDAs and we are going to name and shame them before the close of this budgetary debate.

Mr Chairman, you have given specific instructions that Members need to take their oversight work seriously. I want to assure this House that I will comply with what you have said and I will work hand and glove with the Ministry of Finance in terms of updating this House on the budget allocations to MDAs. This is because it is very serious; and most times when MDAs come before this House, we want to go into their activities, but funds are not available to do so. This cuts across in all the appropriation groups. However, I want to assure you that I will be keeping this House abreast on a daily basis regarding budget allocations made to MDAs.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, late disbursements of funds occurs mostly when the country depends on donor funds, and those funds do not come on time. That is another challenge we are facing. That is why the Ministry of Finance are going to embark on own revenue mobilisation next year. We should generate revenue to finance the budget. I want to assure this House that this year is going to be a different ball game. Mr Chairman, the only thing I want to crave your indulgence is to support the sources of government revenue. Let us support the government to mobilise the needed resources enable us finance the 2026 Budget. There are different sources of revenue they have brought before us and how to mobilise revenue to finance the budget. It is not a one man show, Mr Chairman. This is why I said that everybody here belongs to the Finance Committee. If there is anything you think will help us to deepen the revenue mobilisation, I want you to bring it to our notice and we will take the necessary actions, so that the government will be able to finance its budget, instead of solely depend on donor supports. Most times there are late disbursements of funds, especially when we fully depend on donors. This is because if they are going to give you money in January 2026, the process will start in October or November; and by the time the money comes, the year would have ended and you will end up allocating unavailable funds to MDAs. So, I want to thank you and I will be interjecting as the need arises. I want to inform this House that we had an engagement with the National Revenue

Authority [NRA] yesterday and maybe early in January 2026, we would engage the Ministry of Finance and all the stakeholders who are involved in revenue mobilisation to chart the way forward on how we are going to support them. I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to say these few words on Group 13's report.

MRS KADIATUA ALLIE: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let me first start by thanking this Honourable House for the good work they have done. I specially want to thank Group 13 for their diligence in engaging all MDAs under their purview and making sure that we have a report that is comprehensive and provides guidance as we move towards implementing the 2026 budget. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for providing insights in terms of the composition of the budget. I think that was very useful for Members of Parliament to actually see the composition of the budget and all the sources of revenue.

With that being said, Mr Chairman, I would briefly touch on some key areas that were highlighted. One of them is the use of personal emails and how that should be discouraged. I think the government, through the Ministry of Communications Technology and Innovation, has already established an official email, and that has now been rolled out. So, I agree with the Honourable Member who suggested that in order for us to be taken seriously, we have to be transacting government business using official emails, so as to ensure continuity of government transactions.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, many MPs spoke about budget credibility and the timely disbursement of funds to MDAs. We acknowledged the fact that we must improve on our budget execution. We also acknowledged that internally generated revenue must be improved, which is the reason we have embarked on several reforms. The use of stamp taxation to collect excise or the using of fuel marking to ensure that counterfeit fuel is not permitted in our markets are all innovations to increase revenue. Also, in the Finance Act and through the generosity of this House, we have asked for the single window to be implemented next year. These are all areas that will yield the benefits we are looking for. We want to make sure we increase the revenue, so that we can disburse adequate funds to MDAs. Most times, the challenge we are facing is that if the top line falls, then all allocations to MDAs have to be rationalised. However, as a Ministry, this is a challenge we aspire to address next year.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in terms of overseas medical travels and as the Chairman indicated, there is a budget line for overseas travel. In this 2025, it was twenty million Leones [**Le20,000,000**] and as we stand today, the actual money that has been spent is twenty nine million, six hundred Leone. However, there is a process for overseas travels for medical reason for all deserving Sierra Leoneans. It has to go through the Medical Board and the Ministry of Health through the Office of the

President for his final approval. I also want to touch on the urban mobility and railway issue that was pointed out as capital project, but listed under administrative budget. The key difference is that as we speak, the items that were listed under administrative only covered the feasibility studies and that is why urban mobility and railway issue is covered under administrative, instead of capital project.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I also want to talk about counterpart funding. As a Ministry, we are committed to making sure that when we have donors, we try to take advantage of that opportunity and to make sure that we do our part as indicated. I think we did that with the donors in Paris regarding the health sector, where a million dollars was paid as counterpart funding to make sure that those services in the healthcare sector are being addressed.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I also want to commend the Ministry of Health and this government for the work we did on the Monkey Pox [MPOX] vaccine. I want to inform this House that not a single penny came from donors with regard the MPOX vaccine. It was all handled and supported through our domestic revenue. I am happy to announce here that the Ministry of Health has indicated that we have successfully eradicated MPOX vaccine in Sierra Leone. I say thanks to this House and to the Ministry of Health for the good work. When these emergencies came, they were not necessarily captured in the budget; but as a government, we have to be responsive and flexible to address those emergency needs when they arise.

With that being said, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the following Votes stand part of the schedule.

VOTES	DIV	VOTE DISCRPTION	AMOUNT [NLE]
304	01	Ministry of Health	132,192,700
323	01	National Public Health Agency	20,000,000
210	01	Office of national security	14,474,500
404	01	Ministry of Transport and Aviation	62,086,100
110	13	Presidential Initiatives for Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Food Security	10,316,600
317	01	Sierra Leone, Council for Postgraduate College of Health Specialties	1,000,000
307	01	National Medical Supplies Agencies	84,355,800
315	01	Teaching Hospitals Complex, Administration	1,000,000

346	01	Allied Health Professional Council	200,000
311	01	Health Service Commission	4,000,000
419	01	Local Content Agency	2,000,000
701	02	Kailahun District Council	15,373,202
701	11	Port Loko District Council	14,437,002

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The various Vote heads as read by the Minister of Finance formed part of the Schedule].

THE HOUSE RESUMES

THE SPEAKER: I have a call from the Director of Committees and his team that we expect to receive at least four reports tomorrow. We have between today and Friday to complete these reports and to adjourn for the Christmas recess. So, we need to speed up the work in terms of review and compilation of the reports from the various Committees. That is just to inform them that they should spend sleepless night to enable us read the reports.

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, can I observe? I realised that while we were going through the report, the Minister was without a copy of the report. I want the other Chairmen to please ensure that copies of their reports should be provided to the Minister, so that she will be in line with whatever report that is being presented.

ADJOURNMENT

[The House rose at 1:29 p.m., and was adjourned to Wednesday, 17th December 2025 at 10:00 a.m.]