

*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

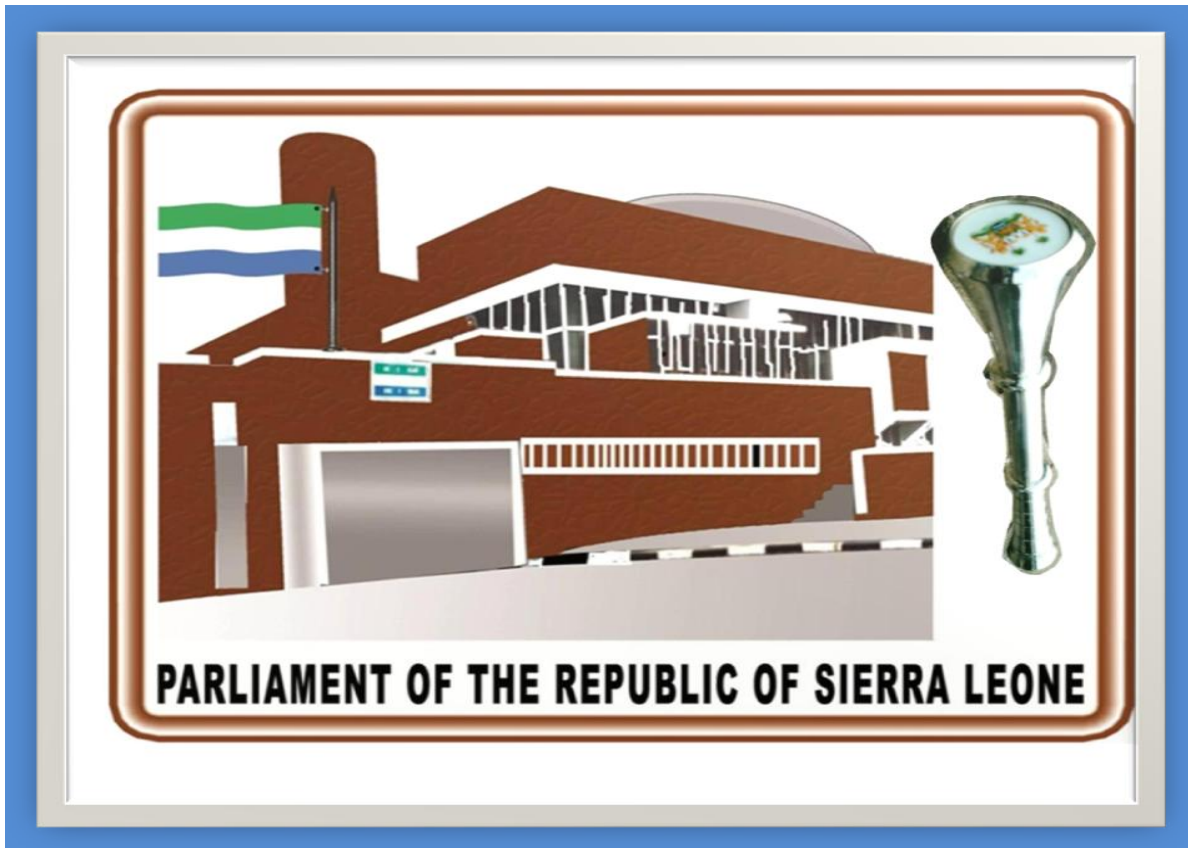
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**THIRD SESSION –FIRST MEETING**

**FRIDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> FEBURARY, 2026**

*SESSION – 2024/2025*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

**NUMBER: 33**

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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 Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

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**Proposer: Hon Mathew Sahr Nyuma**

**Seconder: Hon Bashiru Slikie**

#### **BE IT RESOLVED:**

The Chairman of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service (**Hon Mathew Sahr Nyuma**) proposed the motion as stated:

**“Be it Resolved That The Seventh Report of The Third Session of The Sixth Parliament of The Committee on Appointments and The Public Service Be Adopted by The House and That The Recommendations Contained Therein Be Approved.”**



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

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

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

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**FRIDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> FEBURARY, 2026**

*[The Table Clerk, Miss Yeama Mamie Musa, Read the Prayers]*

*[The House met at 10:05 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]*

*[The Speaker, Hon. Segepoh S. Thomas, in the Chair]*

The House was called to Order

*Suspension of S.O 5[2]*

**CLERK:** Honourable Members, with the leave of Mr Speaker, I want to kindly apologize that the Votes and Proceedings are incomplete, and it would be made available in the next Sitting.

**THE SPEAKER:** Proceed.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

No announcement. Proceed

**MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE**

**PROPOSER:** Honourable Mathew Sahr Nyuma

**SECONDER:** Honourable Bashiru Silikie

**THE SPEAKER:** Where is the leader?

**CLERK:** Excuse me, I announced earlier on that no standing in the gallery. I went there personally to plead with you, no standing. Everybody be seated kindly.

**THE SPEAKER:** Leader of Government Business, proceed....

Give him the hard copy.

**HON. MATHEW SAHR NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Third Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, The Seventh Report of the Committee on Appointments And Public Service on parliamentary vetting of presidential nominations, February 2026.

**INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members. The Committee on Appointments and Public Service that is in charge with responsibility of vetting presidential nominees met on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to interview the following Presidential Nominees.

1. The Chief Electoral Commissioner, Chairman, Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone, ECSL.
2. Chairpersons, Board of Directors, National Water Resources Management Agency and the National Security and the National Social Security and Insurance trust board of trustees respectively.

3. Five Members, Board of Directors, Trustees.
4. Two for Sierra Leone Commercial Bank.
5. One for the Guma Valley Water Company.
6. One for the Sierra Leone student loan scheme and one for NASSIT.

### **PROCEDURE**

The Committee was well constituted and above Corium as in S.O 7 Sub-Section 1 and Section 89 of 1991 Constitution Act No. 6 to conduct hearing within the usual framework or procedures to interview the proposed electric commissioner, chairman and other nominees on issues relating to their educational backgrounds, declared tax assets, tax obligations, etc, etc and to ensure their suitability for such important offices of State.

The Committee adopted strict procedure to ensure that the appointment of a proposed Chief Electoral Commissioner or Chairman was intended with Section 32[3] of the 1991 Constitution Thus, Mr Speaker, I read with your leave; "The Members of the Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the leaders of all registered Political Parties and subject to the approval of Parliament".

So this, the Chairman of the Committee explain in details with justifiable evidences obtained for the Political Parties Regulatory Commission [PPRC], that out of 17 registered political parties nationwide, 13 approved the nomination of the proposed Chief Electoral Commissioner or Chairman, whiles two abstained and two did not approved the appointment as mentioned in the attached minutes. Mr Speaker, I go over it; the Chairman of the Committee explained in details with justifiable evidences obtained from the public from the Political Parties Regulatory Commission PPRC that out of 17 registered political parties nationwide 13 approved the nomination of the proposed Chief Electoral Commissioner or Chairman; whiles two abstained and two did not approved the appointment as mentioned in the attached minutes.

Mr Speaker, allow me to elucidate on this, for the edification of the public following the Provision of 32 [2] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, with your leave if you permit me to do so, I may start with the appointment of Mr Edmond Sylvester Alpha; the issue of consultation mentioned in 32[3], Mr Speaker permit me to read.

**THE SPEAKER:** Proceed...

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you! Section 32[3] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 199, Act No. 6 of 1991 provides that “The Members of the Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the leaders of all registered Political Parties and subject to the approval of Parliament”.

In view of this Constitutional Provision, His Excellency the President, hereby consults, hereby consults with the leadership of your political party of his intention, of his intention to appoint Mr. Edmund Sylvester Alpha as Chief Electoral Commissioner or Chairman [*Applause*].... Thank you!

In view of this constitutional provision, who am I not to pass? [*Laughter*] Who am I? Especially from the Elder’s Council, Who am I? Mr Speaker, in view of this Constitutional Provision, His Excellency the President, hereby consults with the leadership of your political party, of his intention to appoint Mr Edmund Sylvester Alpha as Chief Electoral Commissioner or Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone.

In the view of the above, you are kindly requested to submit your views on this approval within three working days, within three working day, from the date of this letter 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2026.

Mr Speaker Addressed to;

1. The Chairman - Alliance Democratic Party, ADP.
2. The Chairman - All People's Congress, APC.
3. The Chairman - Citizen Democracy Alliance, CBP.
4. The Chairman - National Democratic Alliance, NDA.
5. The Chairman - National Grant Coalition, NDC.
6. The Chairman - National Progressive Democracy, MPD.
7. The Chairman - National Unity and Reconciliation Party, NURP.
8. The Chairman - National Democracy Party, PDP.
9. The chairman - Peace and immigration party, PLP.
10. The Chairman - People's movement for democratic change, PMDC.
11. The Chairman - Republic National Independent Party, Renee.
12. The Chairman - Revolutionary United Front Party, RSP.
13. The Chairman - Sierra Leone Peoples Party, SLPP.
14. The Chairman - United Democratic Movement, UDM.
15. The Chairman - United National Peoples Party, UMPP.
16. The Chairman - Unity Party, UP.

Cc; The Chairman, or Chief Electoral Commissioner  
Acting, The Clerk Of Parliament,

The Executive Secretary, Political Parties Regulation Commission.

Mr Chairman, with a provision in Section 32[3], to verify, I will submit this to the Clerk, but it will be attached to the minutes of this report.

Mr Speaker, in line with the provision of 32 Sub-Sections 3 of the 1991 Constitution Act, No. 6, I call for PPRC to provide us the registered political parties, and I go. Political parties Regulation Commission, OAU Drive, Tower-hill Freetown, telephone number stated, email address stated, website stated, so the website is www.pprc.gov.sl. Details of political parties in Sierra Leone registered.

1. Alliance democratic party [ADP]
2. Alliance People's Democratic Party [APDP]
3. All People's Congress Party [APC]
4. Citizen Democratic Party [CDP]
5. National Democratic Alliance Party [NDA]
6. National Grand Coalition Party [NGC]
7. National Progressive Democratic Party [NPD]
8. National Unity And Reconciliation Party [NURP]
9. People's Democratic Party [PDP]
10. Peace And Immigration Party [PDP]
11. People's Movement For Democratic Change [PMBC]
12. Republic National Independent Party [RENIP]
13. Revolutionary United Party [RUP]
14. Black Revolutionary United Front Party [RUP]
15. Sierra Leone People's Party, [SLPP]
16. United Democratic Movement Party [UDM]
17. United National Party, People's Party [NURP]
18. United Party [UP]
19. Coalition for Change [C4C]

Mr Speaker, we realize that in the copy of the letter, 16 political parties, we have copied. They did not copy C4C because C4C is under injunction. So we cannot copy by law *[Applause]*.

So we are saying, statistically *[Applause]* all right, thank you. Mr Speaker, I realized that I read 16 political parties copied.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hold on, Mr Leader of Government Business. So you did not see Honourable Thompson, you only saw Honourable *[Applause]*

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, thank you. Mr Speaker, I salute Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Proceed.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, with your leave, I will proceed. Mr Speaker, you did not hear the name of Coalition for Change that is C4C because C4C is under injunction. So we cannot, they definitely cannot copy that. I also trust that one.

So, political analysis for the appointments of Mr Edmund Alfa, Mr Clerk, 13 political parties will approve the appointments out of 16 political parties; 13 political parties sent in approval to the appointment of Mr Edmund Sylvester Alfa. So I hereby submit this one to the Clerk. I will take them for the minute. Just for your permission, and forward it to Mr Speaker for his attention but do not go.... do not go.

I read 17 registered political parties submitted to me from PPRC. I hereby submit the list of 17 political parties registered for your Parisian, onward submission to the Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, two political parties did not approve in consultation for the appointment of Mr. Edmund Sylvester Alfa.

1. The All People's Congress, APC.
2. Unity party.

Mr Clerk, I hereby submit the two political parties did not approve for the appointment of Mr Edmund Sylvester Alfa.

For your Parisian you can first check *[Undertone]* Yes, it is still, first check *[Undertone]* yeah. Mr Clerk, I just want you to go over what I have read for the records, but those will be attached to the minutes.

Further, Mr Speaker, if you have read section 32, Sub-section 3, based on what I have read but in the same provision in the appointment of the Chief Electoral Commission and all other Commissioners, there is another provision for disqualification. Section 32[4], the Speaker went further as a Committee to verify if he is not disqualified. He is a Commissioner, Mr Clerk; I want you to get your attention for the records. He is a Commissioner and went further to approve into Section 32[4] and we found out that he is a Commissioner but he is covered by law that is with exemption Clause of Section 171 of Subsection four of the 1981 Constitution Act No. 6.

He is exempted because he is a Commissioner. So that Clause covers because 32[3] is talking about, 32 in general, when you go to [3] and [4] Sub-sections, talking about public officers and that Clause gives him the permission to get that position if he is a public officer because 171 Sub-section 4 of the 1991 Constitution exempted him from

getting that position. So Mr Speaker, with all said, I seek your permission to fully read, to fully read the reports of Mr Edmond Sylvester Alpha having gone through the roof of procedures using the Standing Orders for call, using the constitutional provision for the appointment of Mr Edmond Sylvester Alpha to be the Commissioner, the Chief Electoral Commissioner of ECSL.

**THE SPEAKER:** Permission granted.

**HON MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Colleagues, I need your attention at this point now.

Mr Speaker, Honourable colleagues, as you have given me the permission, are we going through the rules of procedures as stated in my reports and giving further elucidation on what we did in the Committee for the edification of the public and for the sake of transparency. You can question that of the class office by extension, the speaker's office. I proceed to submit to this House; the Sixth Meeting of the Committee on Wednesday, 25 February, 2026.

The Committee interviewed the dimensioned nominees on oath, on oath for the aforementioned positions. Allow me to take some more time.

**THE SPEAKER:** At this stage, Honourable Members, before the Leader proceeds, I wish to recognize the presence of certain dignitaries that we have here this morning, beginning with Sir Jimmy Batilo Songa, National Chairman, You are heartily welcome to the House of Parliament. Honourable Manso A. Dumbuya, Regional Chairman, Ambassador Dr. Kona Koroma, Mr Alex Pat Labbie Saffa, Electoral Commissioner East, Mr Abubakar Koroma, Electoral Commissioner North, Mr Albert S. Kanu, Electoral Commissioner North West. Mr Bersforde Thompson, Regional Vice Chairman, SLPP. Mr Abraham Suma, Chairman Leader, ADP. Mr Foday Massaquoi, Chairman, RUFPP. Mr Victor King, Chairman, CDP. Mr Nabieu Musa Kamara, Chairman, Leader, PLP. Mr Abraham Sorie Sesay, Secretary General, APPA. Mr Harold Turay, PDP Chairman. Mr Tony B. Songa, PMDC National Chairman. Mr. Osman Koroma, National Chairman, UNPP. Mr Samuel Patrick Matia, Executive Director, Elections Observation Network. Mr. Josiah Perris, CEO, Universal Radio and Director, SLRA. Mr Henry M. Thompson, Senior Elections Officer. Professor Philip John Kanu, Vice Chancellor and Principal, MMTU. Mr. Boakai Bindi, Hindowa, Deputy Minister of Gender and Chairman, Bo District, SLPP [*Applause*] Okay.....proceed, Leader Of Government Business, proceed.

Mr. Rogers, please come. Leader, can you proceed, please?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having read provisions and clarity why we should proceed with the appointment of Chief Electoral Commissioner. I hereby submit to this House, the Sixth Sitting of the Committee on Appointment. The Sixth Sitting of the Committee on Wednesday, take note of the spelling of Wednesday, the 25th February, 2026.

The Committee interviewed the under mentioned nominees on oath for the aforementioned positions;

### **THIRD SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**

### **SEVENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND**

### **THE PUBLIC SERVICE ON PARLIAMENTARY VETTING OF**

### **PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS, FEBRUARY, 2026**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service that is charged with the responsibility of vetting Presidential nominees met on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2026 to interview the following Presidential Nominees :

- i. The Chief Electoral Commissioner/ Chairman ,Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL)
- ii. Two Chairpersons, Board of Directors, National Water Resources Management Agency and the National Social Security and Insurance Trust Board of Trustees respectively;
- iii. five Members, Board of Directors/Trustees, two for the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank(SLCB); **one** for the Guma Valley Water Company ,one for the Sierra Leone Students' Loan Scheme and one for NASSIT

#### **2. PROCEDURE**

The Committee was well constituted and above **quorum** as in SO 7(1) and Section 89 of the 1991 Constitution to conduct hearing within the usual framework of procedures to interview the proposed Chief Electoral Commissioner/Chairman and other nominees

on issues relating to their educational backgrounds, declared assets, tax obligations etc., and to ensure their suitability for such important offices of state. The Committee adopted strict procedure to ensure that the appointment of the proposed Chief Electoral Commissioner/Chairman was in tandem with Section 32(3) of the 1991 National Constitution thus "The members of the Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the leaders of all registered political parties and subject to the approval of Parliament". To this, the Chairman of the Committee explained in details with justifiable evidences obtained from the Political Parties Regulatory Commission(PPRC) that out of seventeen(17) registered political parties nationwide, thirteen(13) approved the nomination of the proposed Chief Electoral Commissioner/Chairman, whilst two abstained and two didn't approve the appointment as mentioned in the attached minutes.

### **3. Sixth Sitting of the Committee on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2026**

The Committee interviewed the undermentioned nominees on oath for the aforementioned positions:

#### **i. Mr Edmond Sylvester Alpha, Proposed Chief Electoral Commissioner/Chairman, Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL)**

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, the appointment of the aforementioned to head the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone is crucial as the nation prepares for thorough electoral reforms and the 2028 elections. It reaffirms the conviction that the best Commissioners of the ECSL are the seasoned professionals from within who have struggled a long way to uphold the tenets and credibility of their institution as was proven by former Commissioner Unfa Alie who was appointed by then President Ernest Bai Koroma.

Mr. Edmond Sylvester Alpha is an unblemished and firm electoral professional of the ECSL family with over two decades' experience in election administration, civic education and Institutional leadership. He joined the ECSL then the National Electoral Commission in 2005 as a District Electoral Officer, Tonkolili District rose through the ranks to the position of Director of Training and Electoral Education-(2010-2019) and then to Commissioner, Southern Region (2019-2025). On 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2025, following his exemplary track records, he was called to officially assume the office of Acting Chairman of the ECSL following the expiry of tenure of the outgoing Chairman, Mr. Mohamed Kenewui Konneh.

Mr Alpha is widely read and revered in academia not only as a writer but as an instructor and media expert. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English (First Division) -1996 and a Master of Arts in Education (2002), all from the then Njala University College,

University of Sierra Leone. In addition ,the nominee has lofty profile of training accreditations from credible electoral training institutions such as the United States Defense Institute of International Studies (August,2012) on Legal Aspects of Elections Security in Sierra Leone, the Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (Bridge Project,2006) and hosts of other trainings that have strengthened Edmond in maintaining electoral integrity, transparency, democratic credibility and institutional independence at the Electoral Commission.

Reacting to the myriads of criticism from especially opposition party about his neutrality in past electoral conducts, integrity and transparency of 2028 elections, the nominee said "I heard all these barrage of accusations though they have not been referred to me personally, but in law the onus of proof lies with the one making the claims and has the right to go to court if there are existing doubts as in the public Elections Act. My background as a seasoned elections administrator over twenty one years and two times in acting capacity as the Chairman and Chief Commissioner, I always believe in the rule of law in discharging my duties for sustainable democratic dispensation". Mr Edmond with humor explained to the Committee his preparedness for the 2028 elections and stressed that he will uphold the ongoing reforms and standards of the institution to conduct free, fair and transparent elections. He assured to release elections results within 72hrs after closed of polls.

Furthermore, when questioned on his would be legacy, supports for women's election quota amongst others, he said "I am going to enliven ,reinforce and strengthen women representation first at my Commission and supports inclusivity of women in general as in Section 58(2) of the Public Elections Act,2022 ; especially in achieving the 30% quota for female representations"

In conclusion, the erudite Commissioner said, as a professional he has a thick skin and unshakable character that enables him to conduct elections that have seen governments retain power and opposition taking governance –vice visa, in a credible, fair and transparent manner.

As a legacy, Mr Edmond Sylvester Alpha said, his current assignment holds the stability of the state and promised to uphold ECSL's tenets for transparent elections according to law acceptable to all citizens of Sierra Leone.

ii. **Mr. Gerald Demby - Proposed Chairman ,Board of Directors,National Water Resources Management Agency**

Mr. Demby holds a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Economics from the University of Sierra Leone, 1991. Further demonstrating his technical proficiency, he holds a specialized National Accounts Statistics Certificate from the IMF Institute in Washington, D.C., USA. This combination of high-level economic theory and practical statistical application provides a strong foundation for evidence-based policymaking and resource management. The Committee noted his professional experience thus: Managing Director, Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company (SLPMC) from 2019 to 2023. This role placed him at the helm of a major national institution, where he was responsible for strategic oversight, board governance, operational management, and navigating the challenges of the agricultural export market.

At Central Statistics (now Statistics Sierra Leone), he served as the Head of National Accounts Statistics from 1992 to 1996. In this capacity, he was responsible for the critical function of calculating the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and managing the system of national accounts, giving him deep insight into the country's economic data and planning.

His service abroad especially at Tax Service Professional, Jackson Hewitt, New Jersey USA, (2001-2018) enabled him work effectively in the competitive corporate environment that capacitated him with high-level skills in organizational governance, managing large teams, corporate policy implementation, and understanding complex regulatory compliance frameworks.

In his response to the Committee, the nominee promised to inspire colleagues to map out strategies to protect the water resources as per the Water Resources Management Act, and would work collaboratively with administration to address current emergent issues on shrinking water catchments around urban areas.

iii **Madam Isata Marah - Proposed Chairman, National Social Security and Insurance Trust Board of Trustees**

Madam Isata Marah is a banker/ Finance expert spanning over 25 years, managing portfolios of high-net-worth clients. She has adept experience in Financial Management, Corporate Banking, Wealth/Portfolio Management, Risk Management, Project Management and Public Private Partnership projects. Her career presents a unique and powerful combination of public service, high-level financial control, and international private sector experience.

She holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration with option in Financial Management from the University of Wales, United Kingdom in 2012, and Bachelor of Science with honours in Computing Studies from South Bank University, London, United Kingdom in 1996. Her career trajectory reflects a unique combination of local insight and international expertise, culminating into a direct readiness to serve at the NaSSIT Board as were exhibited in the ensuing work profile:

- Public Sector Governance and Systems Consultant (2015-date): in Financial Management and Controls at the North East London Commissioning Support Unit (NHS Corporate) ,
- Business Analyst, Barclays Bank, London, United Kingdom (1997 - 2002): Ms. Marah's tenure as a Business Analyst at Barclays Bank in the United Kingdom provides a critical foundation in commercial banking, risk assessment, and data analysis. This experience will be invaluable in guiding the Board's oversight of NASSIT's investment strategies, ensuring sound and rewarding returns based on best practice.

Responding to the Committee she assured the Committee that once approved she would understudy the operations of the Board and adapt her professional acquired experience to boost the Trust to deliver on its mandate for the people of Sierra Leone

#### **iv Ms. Edwina Berewa Esq - Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank(SLCB).**

Ms. Edwina Berewa is a Legal luminary with high standing. She possesses a strong and diverse academic background, blending humanities, science, and public administration. She holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA): Njala University (2009 – 2012), Bachelor of Arts (BA) General in History and Sociology: Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone (1998 – 2002) and was called to the Bar in 2021. She is currently a practicing Lawyer at Sangarie Law Firm, Freetown.

Madam Berewa has an accumulated experience in administration within key public sector institutions before transitioning to legal practice as noted thus:

- 2022 – Present: Lawyer, Sangarie Law Firm, Freetown.
- 2014 – [Date]: Administrative Officer, Dalan Consultancy.
- 2003 – 2013: Administrative Officer, Sierra Leone Ports Authority (SLPA)

The Committee acknowledged that this nominee has a high integrity, sound character, and considerable professional accomplishment to advise the SLCB's Board on critical corporate matters for fruitful engagements.

**v.Ms Lucretia Marian Shereef, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Guma Valley Water Company**

Madam Lucretia Marian Shereef is a disciplined administrator, a diplomat and renowned gender activist who has developed a unique profile from over 40 years sojourn. Through hard work and dedication, she has touched the lives of so many Sierra Leoneans.

She holds a Master of Arts in Education (1989), from Union College, Barbourville, Kentucky, United States of America, and a Bachelor of Arts in English Language, Literature and Education from Fourah Bay College (1981). The nominee has worked diligently since:

- September 2018 – 2024: Sierra Leone's High Commissioner to the Republic of the Gambia;
- September 2013 – November 2017: National Women's Leader, Sierra Leone People's Party
- September 1999 – November 2013: Principal, Harford School for Girls, Moyamba
- March 1983 – August 1999: Vice Principal, Harford School for Girls, Moyamba

Her strong background in education, combined with her experience in public administration makes her an asset poised to contribute significantly to the stability of the endemic administrative challenges of the company in question.

**Vi Mr. Yayah Bashiru Kargbo, Proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Students 'Loan Scheme**

Mr. Yayah Bashiru Kargbo is a result oriented personality with a very strong desire and passion for youth empowerment and development.

His career trajectory demonstrates a consistent record of increasing responsibility, operational management, and community engagement as were noted:

- Fleet and Logistics Officer, Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, Port Loko District (2014 - 2018)
- Field Supervisor, Statistics Sierra Leone, Port Loko District (2022)

Mr. Yayah Bashiru Kargbo demonstrated a clear understanding of the role of the Students Loan Scheme and its importance to the nation's future. He promised to cooperate with colleagues to implement the scheme according to law.

vii **Mr. Sheikh Rahman Kamara, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank**

Mr. Kamara brings a wealth of accumulated experience over forty years in the fields of education, information systems, and central banking. He holds a Master of Science Degree in Information Systems from the University College, London, with specializations in Banking Technology, and a BA (Hons) in Information Science from Leeds University.

During the interview, the Committee noted the following:

- His career is distinguished by over two decades of service at the Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL), where he rose through the ranks to hold the position of Acting Director and Secretary to the Board (2011-2013). His roles included providing deep insight into corporate governance and board's operations at the highest level of financial regulation.
- Furthermore, Mr. Kamara has direct boardroom experience, having recently served two terms (2018-2024) as a Member of the Board of Directors at the Bank of Sierra Leone. During this tenure, he served as Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee, demonstrating his capacity for financial oversight.

Given his extensive experience in financial governance, strategic management, and institutional leadership, Mr. Kamara is eminently qualified to contribute to the strategic direction of the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank and he promised to uphold this.

4. **Excerpt of the Fifth Report ,December,2025,**

viii **Mr Milton Augustine Koroma, Proposed Member, National Social Security and Insurance Trust Board of Trustees**

Mr Milton Augustine Koroma is an educationist of great repute and had served extensively in impacting knowledge both at the basic and tertiary levels in Sierra Leone.

- From 1993 – 2009: He was the Principal of the St. Francis Secondary School, Makeni, where he contributed immensely to the school's rehabilitation after the civil war.

- 2009 -2021: He served as the Director of Human Resources and Administration of the Sierra Leone Telecommunication Company [SIERRATEL].
- 1987 – 1990: Lecturer in African studies at the then Makeni Teachers College, now the Ernest Bai Koroma University – etc.

Mr Milton Augustine Koroma holds a Master of Arts Degree in International Development from the Center of International Studies, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio United States of America [2005] and a Bachelor of Arts in Education with a major in Geography from the Njala University College, 1984 previously under the University of Sierra Leone.

As a devout Catholic, the nominee served the Mission in most of its project execution and organizations to strengthen his Parish in the Catholic Diocese of Makeni and the country at large. He served as District Returning Officer, Bombali district at the National Elections Commission for the 2002 Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

As a researcher, the nominee promised to work closely with other members and administration on the viability and sustainability of NASSIT's numerous projects and their benefits to subscribers.

## 5. **Recommendations**

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

- i. Mr. Edmond Sylvester Alpha Proposed Chairman and Chief Electoral Commissioner Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone( ECSL),
- ii. Mr. Gerald Demby, Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, National Water Resources Management Agency
- iii. Madam Isata Marah, Proposed Chairperson, National Social Security and Insurance Trust
- iv. Ms Edwina Berewa Esq, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank
- v. Ms Lucretia Marian Shereef, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Guma Valley Water Company

- vi. Mr. Yayah Bashiru Kargbo, Proposed Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Students' Loan Scheme
- vii. Mr. Sheikh Rahman Kamara, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone
- viii. Mr Milton Augustine Koroma, Proposed Member, National Social Security and Insurance Trust Board of Trustees
- ix.

**6. Conclusion**

Based on the aforementioned and closed session decision, I therefore move that the **Seventh Report** of the third Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Signed.....

**Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma (JP)**

Chairman and Leader of Government Business

**SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

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

**SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, the question is, that the Seventh Report of the Third Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House under the recommendations contained therein, be approved. Thank you.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to begin by thanking His Excellency, the President, for presenting to this House the nominees that will help him to achieve his agenda. Mr Speaker, Honourable

Members, His Excellency, as per law, has the responsibility to nominate persons, but these persons can only occupy these offices when approved by the people of Sierra Leone through their representatives. The mere nomination does not guarantee them the job. It is only the people's approval that will guarantee their job. So to the nominees, you have been selected from amongst the numerous Sierra Leoneans to help His Excellency in achieving his agenda. If you fail, you will not just be failing yourselves, you will be failing His Excellency, the President, and by extension, you will be failing the people of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, excuses will not be tolerated. Performance should be the watchword and in the next few years, we will be reading our score-cards to the people of Sierra Leone and what you do, what you achieve, will be part of our score-card. If you fail, we will have nothing to tell our people. But if you succeed, you will not just be succeeding for yourselves; you will be succeeding for us, the Presidency, the Parliament, and the Councils because your successes are the things we will be campaigning on because it is extremely clear, our people are convinced that we Members of Parliament are still responsible for primary development. But I keep on saying it continuously, that responsibility of development have been removed from the Parliament and taken to the Executive.

So when nominees come here, we admonish them, we make them to understand that their successes are our successes, and their failures are our failures. So Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the fact that His Excellency has nominated them is a clear indication that he has trust and confidence in them. Mr Speaker, with that said; let me zoom in on a few of them.

I will start, Mr Speaker, with a nominee from my constituency. I know everybody will think I want to go to Manitoba. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am a Member of Parliament representing Bo District, and specifically, Baoma Chiefdom.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to personally thank His Excellency, the President, for considering nominating Mr Gerald Dembey to this House. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Gerald Dembey is one of the strong SLPP members long, long, long before now. When he was in the United States, he supported the SLPP political team. At a period, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there was a lot of people who did not want to associate with the SLPP. At a period, Mr Speaker, those who benefitted from the SLPP during the era of President Kabba shy away from associating with the SLPP whilst in opposition. Mr Gerald Dembey, we are few of the people who stood firm that they will support the SLPP, making sure the SLPP gains power.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having supported the SLPP and in 2018, at a very difficult period, he flew from the United States to Sierra Leone to help the SLPP to achieve where it is today. Mr Speaker, I can say here without fear or favour that he played an extremely pivotal role in Baoma District and in Bo District.

In 2018, myself and him, we transversed the entire constituency and beyond. In 2022, 2023, we did likewise. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in 2023, when His Excellency was re-elected, he was relieved but that did not discourage him. He continued supporting the SLPP. We have people who have been relieved, who have been opportune to hold positions, and when was His Excellency relieved then? They bad mouth the SLPP and the government but Mr Gerard Dembe stood firm with the SLPP. He continued his support for the SLPP. There is no one day he has bad mouth His Excellency the President, nor the SLPP and today, he has be considered, that should be the spirit. Thank you very much. Congratulations!!!

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today I am here as Deputy Leader and I can contribute here, it is because of the role Mr Edmond Alpha played while some of us were in Njala University. Mr Speaker, Mr Edmond Alpha was my communication's lecturer. And for some of us who went through him, we can attest that he is an expert in the field of communications.

Mr Speaker, with that said, I want to inform this House that today I am extremely pleased, extremely pleased to be a member of the Sierra Leone People's Party.

Mr Speaker, when we came to this Parliament in 2012, I had the opportunity to approve two Electoral Commissioners, Chairman of the Electoral Commission. When we lost the elections in 2007, when the Electoral Commission decided to cancel 437 polling centers, which was unlawful, we were in governance, Mr Speaker; we took it in good faith, we challenged, but we know that was the decision of the referee at that moment, we accepted the results, we accepted the results, we handed over power peacefully. We congratulated the winner.

Even when we know at that point that the elections were not just, there was no law, the Electoral Commission relied on to announce that result, the SLPP handed power. We went into opposition. We reorganized ourselves; we contested in 2012.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in 2012, when counting was ongoing, when the elections were announced, when we protested, they referred us to the police station. Mr Speaker, I said I am very pleased to be a member of the SLPP. We went to Court, because that is what the law states, that when you are dissatisfied, you go to court. We knew we were in opposition, we knew the APC was in governance, we did not shy away from the

court. We knew the APC, the President by then, was the person who appointed all the judges and magistrates. We did not shy away from that; we went to court. Decisions were made by the court and we accepted the decision, even though we knew the decision was not pleasing to us, we accepted the decision, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we came back, we worked with the government and we did not say we were not going to participate in governance. 2012 leading to 2018, we were not satisfied with the Electoral Commissioners, but the law states that His Excellency in consultation should appoint them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when N'fia Alie was nominated to this House, we were extremely aware of the position that we should not approve it, we should walk out. Today, I now believe that the leadership we had in opposition was a matured and experienced leadership. I want to recognize persons like John Oponjo Benjamin, Banja Tejan-Sie, Dr Prince Harding, We were young. We wanted to walk out, we wanted to demonstrate, and we went to the party office. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, they told us in the party office that Mr N'fia will have to conduct the 2018 elections. Bearing that in mind, we need to support his candidature.

That was an extremely mature decision. Even when we knew what happened in 2012, because Mr N'fia was the Commissioner for North, we knew what happened in the Northern Region. It was an extreme maturity. They pacified us. That maturity was what brought us to this House on that day. We came to this House; we supported N'fia to the displeasure of the ruling party.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having gone through that process, 2018, look at where we are today. Even when the persons who were conducting the elections, we were dissatisfied with them but what happened? They read the results that the people voted. The more reason why you need to support the Electoral Commission whenever they are brought here, it is not for them to disadvantage you or to advantage you, but they are the referees, and there is no way we are going to bring somebody out of Sierra Leone to manage the Electoral Commission. It is only Sierra Leonean that will manage that commission.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our colleagues on the other side did not come. Today, *[Undertone]* no, no, sorry, the majority of them did not come.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Leader, be guided.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you! Mr Speaker, today, I am fully in support of the President's statement that says "the APC is not good for themselves, nor the people of Sierra Leone" *[Applause]*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, ever since the consultation, the APC has been telling us about Tripartite and Unity Agreements; that is how insincere these people are. Mr Speaker, I have the unity agreements, and all what is embedded in these documents has been fulfilled by government; everything in this documents.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave, let me highlight some of the issues, the resolutions of the **UNITY AGREEMENT**. They said, Mr Speaker, one of the resolutions that His Excellency should make a national address. Mr Speaker, we all know His Excellency made a national address after this resolution. They said APC will end its non-participation, they ended. They should form a Tripartite committee and it was formed.

Mr Speaker, they agreed that we should release all persons arrested, detained and or in prison for allegations of elections and civil protests. All of that has been done. Discontinuing of politically motivated court cases; all court cases have been dropped. Support to settlement of political persons. Everything has been done, Mr Speaker.

Upon assumption of their elective governance positions, all elected APC officials, Members of Parliament, Mayors, Chairpersons, Councilors, will have the issue regarding their entitlement address accordingly by the appropriate authority constitutions. Mr Speaker, we have paid their backlogs, we have paid 100%. I know they want to sit again and come for asking for backlog; that is what they are planning.

Mr Speaker, we have also addressed the issue of committees and International Parliaments. Today, Mr Speaker, I can tell you that the international Parliaments we have, the Pan-African Parliaments, we have two APC Members of Parliament, two SLPP Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, the AFCP Parliament, we have two SLPP, two APC Members of Parliament. The ECOWAS Parliaments, currently they are even in ECOWAS even when they say they are not participating in governance. Honourable Abdul Kargbo is in ECOWAS; He is in ECOWAS and he said he is not participating in governance. What are you doing in

ECOWAS? You are representing governments. If you do not want to participate in governance, you should not go to ECOWAS, He is being paid. He is in ECOWAS. Two of them, Honourable Mabinty Fornah and Honourable Abdul Kargbo, they are in ECOWAS. They are in ECOWAS, granting interviews and they are not participating in governance. What are you doing in ECOWAS? Honourable Emerson and Honourable Veronica Kadie, she said all of them, they are in ECOWAS. So we have settled that; what are they crying for?

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, they say His Excellency the President should wait for them. Why? Are we running the government? Are they running the government for His Excellency the President? You know the law is clear. His Excellency had not done anything against the spirit of the law.

Mr. Speaker, we are lawmakers. As Members of Parliament, we would not even have interviewed Mr. Edmond Alpha, had the President not complied with the Constitution. We would not *[Applause]*.

Mr. Speaker, the APC has nothing at this moment to even advance to the people, they are hiding behind the **Unity Agreements** that has been fulfilled. Correctly, Mr. Speaker, in the Tripartite, they have recommended that we review the laws. And the government has gone to the extent of reviewing the Constitution. What else do the APC want? We even went further to have a conversation with them. All of what they requested, they have denied today.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to continue informing the public that elections is a process and already the process should have started. There is a strategic plan and the strategic plan, Mr. Speaker Honourable Members, they are periodic.

They are periods that should be achieved. And there is no way, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members, an active Electoral Commissioner will continue running the strategic plan and taking key strategic decisions on behalf of the Commission and there is no way, Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, it is even unjust for the President or any other person to allow somebody to act for more than six months. The policy says the acting position should not be more than six months, it is either you appoint the person or you bring some other person to occupy the office.

**SPEAKER:** Hold on, Honourable Leader. After the seconder, the leader, I will accept one Paramount Chief, if you are interested, and one member of APC, if you are interested, after which we will round up *[Applause]* Yes, proceed.

**HONOURABLE BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you.

**SPEAKER:** At this stage, Honourable Members, at this stage, Honourable Members, SLPP do not bother. After the leader, one paramount chief, one opposition. *[Interruption]* No, no, no, please. No, please, Leader. He is saying everything *[Undertone]* Yes, give him your notes. SLPP, give the Leader your notes. You can give your leader your notes. Honourable, at this stage, may I respectfully recognize the presence of the following personalities that are here, or dignitaries of Sierra Leone that are here, Beginning with:

**Alhaji .A.K. Sesay** - National Deputy Chairman, RINIP.

**Mr. John Bonjo Margai** - Board Chairman SLRA and District Chairman SLPP.

**Honorable Emmanuel Gbekie** - Sierra Leone Maritime Administration.

**Mr. Samkim Brahma** - former Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

**Madam Halimatu Deen** - Acting Chairperson and Leader, the United Democratic Movement (UDM)

**Mr. Fuad Dabo** - Director General, NASSIT.

**Mr. Solomon Anthony Bockarie** - NYGC Secretary, SLPP.

**Mr. Biyah Y. Idris** - Commissioner to Right to Access Information Commission (RAIC).

**Chief Brima Keita** - former Regional Chairman Western Area

**Mr. Mohammed Koroma** - National Chairman and Leader NGC

**Honorable Alpha Kanu** - Presidential Spokesman State House

**Mr. Abu Bakar Bangura** - National Secretary-General, PDP, and

**Dr. Alpha Wurie** - former Minister of Higher Education.

You are all heartily welcome. Proceed, Leader.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, today, I can tell you, Honourable Members, and the general public, that the APC Party is a bad loser. They are extremely bad losers. Mr. Speaker, ever since 2023, we have seen what they have been rallying their supporters to do and, Mr. Speaker, to the Tripartite' agreement, which they are relying on, to the **Unity Agreement** which they are relying on, it states that political parties should condemn, they should condemn persons who preach hate messages. Till today, Mr. Speaker, APC supporters have been preaching hate message and nobody has venture to condemn them; to the extent Secretary-General of their party would refer to His Excellency, the President, as a thief. So, Mr. Speaker, they have nothing to advance to the people of Sierra Leone. Mr. Alpha, congratulations on your nomination.

You have the experience, Mr. Alpha, you have the experience. You have gone through the ranks. You started as a junior officer to where you are. That should be the spirit in every office. When you are employed, you should be comforted. You should have the impression that when I perform, I will reach the highest position in that office.

It is heart-rending sometimes for you to have performed in an office and the moment you have the belief that you have, and you bring somebody who doesn't even have the experience. Congratulations. You supported persons who were there before you. You have respected leaders before you. The same measures, the same respect you gave to your boss, this respect your staff will give to you. The same support you gave to persons before you will be the same support your officers will give to you but bear in mind that in that office, others also wanted that position. Please treat them as your colleagues. It was also their right to show interest because they have also worked in that institution like you. They believe they are qualified like you. They believe they can serve like you, but they do not fall on you, so do not take it personally. Work with them for the good of the institution; that should be the legacy. Work with other Commissioners because it should be a team scheme, not one person performing. It should be a collective responsibility, make sure you carry other Commissioners along. Make sure you carry your staff along. Of course, among the staffs, you will have those that you are supporting, those who also wanted the position; forget about that. You are now their big brother. You are now the big man in the room. Treat all of them as your staff and focus on the bigger picture of conducting a free, transparent election that will be pleasing to the people of Sierra Leone. You should not be under pressure. No political party should put you under pressure. You have the support of this House. We are here as Members of Parliament, not just for the SLPP or APC. We are Members of Parliament for the Republic of Sierra Leone.

So I want to assure you, as a parliament collectively, in this Parliament, as you can see, we have the APC, you have the paramount chiefs, we have the SLPP. All of us collectively will give you the maximum support. Don't be intimidated. Make sure you focus on the bigger picture. Make sure you work with your staffs and your colleagues so that at the end of the day, the results that will be read will be the people's results.

Congratulations and we wish you well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me zero in on Madam Isata Marah. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Isata Marah is our daughter in this Parliament. She is our daughter. Her father was the first majority leader of this House in the first Parliament in 1996. Honourable S.B. Marah.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam, you have been nominated to serve as the NASSIT's Chairman. Today, I can tell you, Mr Speaker, that NASSIT's investments needs a lot of reconsideration. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, today, fortunately we have the Chairman and other Members of the Commission. Please work fast, look at the investment portfolio of NASSIT. A lot needs to be done.

Today, if you go to Golden Tulip, it is closed. And it has been closed for quite some time now; that is a huge investment and it is wasting. Mr Speaker, Radisson Blu is not doing well, the plazas are not doing well. No new investments. Please, as Chairman, make sure you revamp the NASSIT's investments portfolio because the only way we can be assured as workers of this nation that when we retire, our pensions will be paid, is when we see viable investments from NASSIT.

Please make sure, work with the Director General and team, other Members of the board, make sure you revive the investment portfolio of NASSIT. We want to see NASSIT all over. You can even venture into roadwork. Some of these PPI arrangements, build, operate and transfer in the hospitality industry. Go to the hospital, in the health sector. If you go to Ghana for instance, there is a whole hospital built by their Insurance Trust. So please, please Madam, we are confident in you. Please make sure you have the experience, you have the expertise. You are a financial expert. Please make sure you work with other members of the Trust, to make sure you revive the investment portfolio.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to my brother, my name sake, Sheikh Bashiru; that is exactly my name, Bashiru. I wish you well. We are very intelligent people though, we are *[Applause]* and I interviewed him, he is a very intelligent man. There is no stupid Bashiru. Please, you are wish well.

To my sister from Bo, Madam Edwina Berewa. We have no problem with you. We have no problem, Honourable Bashiru is here. Honourable Bashiru, are you here? We have no problem, you are safe with us especially when Charles Abdulai and Honourable Bashiru are here, and you are very safe. Please make sure you work with other members of the board, to develop the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank the most. We are still members of the Commercial Bank, myself and my boss. Others have left. Others have gone to other banks. But we will encourage them to come back. You will come back to Commercial Bank. Please, make sure you work with other Members of the board, to come back to Parliament, encourage them to come back to Commercial Bank.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with that said, I want to congratulate Madam Lulu Sharif. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam, congratulations. Mr Speaker, at difficult period in the life of the SLPP.

Madam Lulu Sheriff, even when she was retired, she came forward and presented herself to be the women's leader of her party. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as a retiree, she should have said, let me go and take care of my children and grandchildren. She said, no, I am going to devote myself to the SLPP. And she devoted herself to the SLPP from 2012, 2013 after the elections, to 2018, there is no wonder you go to the SLPP party office, and you will not see Madam Lulu Sheriff. She transverse with us, even at her age. We all know how difficult it is to manage the women of this country. Our Female Caucus President of this Parliament will tell you how difficult it is to even manage 30 people in this Parliament; she will tell you how difficult it is.

**HON. BANADETTE WUYATTA SONGA:** Mr Speaker, I think I will respond to that. It is even more difficult to manage the men.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** So, Madam, even after her retirement...

**SPEAKER:** I agree with you,

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker that is why they believe, if you can manage a woman, there is no position you cannot manage. There is no position.

The most difficult person, the most difficult office to manage, is the woman's office. If you can manage that office, there is no position. Even to manage a statue, you cannot manage it. So, Madam advances and manages the women of the SLPP. Thank you very much, Madam; thank you. Today, even when you told us that you are 78, Your Excellency is still of the conviction that you can do more for this nation. Congratulations again, that should be the spirit that should be the spirit of our mothers. If you have the energy to

serve, put yourself forward. Thank you, Madam, I dove my heart to you. Congratulations on your nomination. I am very sure this Parliament will approve of you.

Congratulations to all of you. Please go and do us proud; do not disappoint... You see APC, they are threatening everybody. They are threatening the Electoral Commission. They are threatening the military. They are threatening the police. They are threatening everybody. We do not know who they want to manage when they come and they will never come. Please do us proud, perform and with your performance, we will keep them in abeyance in perpetualism. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

**SPEAKER:** Any Paramount Chief?... Yes, Chief Kargobai

**HON. P.C. DESMOND M. KARGOBAI:** I want to start my debate by thanking His Excellency for what he has given us these well experienced and qualified nominees. These are the kind of nominees as Paramount Chiefs we want to see because these are all household names. We have approved nominees in this Parliament, their names cannot go beyond Waterloo but this set of people, as Paramount Chiefs, we are happy to receive them. We know they are qualified and we support the President for all the nominees, especially when they have gone through the interview. We have trust and confidence in the Appointment Committee. Once they have gone through the processes, we are requesting or asking all the MPs to speedily approve them so they can start their job. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Mohamed Bangura.

**HON. MOHAMED BANGURA:** Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, today...

**THE SPEAKER:** Hold on, Honourable Mohamed Bangura. I just heard somebody referring to you as Acting Leader. Have you assumed your position again?

**HON. MOHAMED BANGURA:** I am here this morning, standing here, making my contribution on behalf of the opposition. I mean the opposition. All the opposition is Sierra Leone. So I am not just speaking on behalf of the APC but all of them, all of them, all of them, here this morning.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members. I want to first of all commend the President for his compliance, for his strict compliance, for his adherence to the 1991 Constitution, specifically Section [32.3]. His compliance, this morning, has been demonstrated by members of the political parties club in this country. You have 13 members of political parties, 13 chairmen and their secretaries, who are here in this Well, to follow this appointment and, Mr. Speaker; I must commend these political parties. And I want to welcome them to the Well of Parliament specifically, specifically, the chairman, and who

also happens to be the chairman of All Political Parties, APA, Mr. Harold Turay; stand up, stand up, of PDP, the chairman of PDP.

Mr. Speaker, we are here this morning, again, to approve nominees of the President but these nominees, this time, has to do with the chairman of ECSL, so it is very important. That is the reason why, in fact, on my way to Parliament, I saw a barrage of police officers. I will say this, Mr. Speaker, Members of Parliament. The appointment of the Chief Electoral Commissioner is very timely. It is very timely to keep the unity, peace, of this country.

Make no mistake, this morning; I will be supporting the appointment, the approval, of the Chief Electoral Commissioner *[Applause]* Wait, wait, wait. Do not clap yet. Mr. Speaker, I would want to appeal to the leader of Government Business not to please make any objection on my debates until I finish. Please, Mr. Leader, please.

They are very critical issues. They are very critical issues surrounding the ECSL nominee that we have here at this moment. But I always say this to them, that this country, we must give ourselves a second chance. Even in our homes, Mr. Speaker, we have a problem of trust with our wives, with our kids, with husband, with everybody. The problem of trust has today taken over Sierra Leone. The problem of trust we do not trust anybody regardless your political party, your religion, anybody **is trusting** nobody in this country; Why? We must learn to give ourselves the second chance in life. We must learn to trust one another. A thief is not always a thief. It is always. It is not always a thief *[Undertone]* Yes, I know that. So, Mr. Speaker, let the people of this country have one thing in mind, that this is the only country we have called Sierra Leone. Wherever you go, you always come back home.

So if everybody in this country is suspecting everybody, then we are doomed as a country. We are doomed as a country. The idea of suspecting everybody, everybody for no good reason, suspecting everybody because of the affiliation in the past, is not good. If we are to build a nation called Sierra Leone, if we are to build a nation, if we are to forge in our democratic credentials, we must hold ourselves, we must embrace everyone together in this strife. Some of the critical issues are concerning the Electoral Commissioner, nobody hates you; Nobody will hate you. Because you have a wealth of experience spamming over 21 years in election matters.

So you are there, you have seen it, either Christiana Thorpe, as Commissioner, come to Konneh as Commissioner, come to N'fa Alie as Commissioner, now coming to you. So you have seen it all. The reason why I said SLPP, you must not jump and clap in haste. I will

say this; Experience has taught me a lot of lessons. Today when it comes to Electoral Commissioner, we are in this country when Christiana Thorpe was appointed by the SLPP and the APC cried foul everywhere. Christiana Thorpe conducted the elections and the APC won that election again, unfairly, by then I was the chairman of N'fa Alie. The SLPP were crying, up and down, jumping.

For me to get the political parties to approve President Koroma's appointment was not easy. Nfa Alie, he was the APC that is what they said at that time. They said he is APC. And now, N'fa Alie, he conducted the elections and the SLPP came to power. We won and came to power. I do not know, it is the same thing [*Undertone*] well the SLPP won the elections and fast forward it today, we have Sylvester Alpha and the APC is crying foul, the SLPP is celebrating, rejoicing.

Let me tell you one thing here. If I am going to be proud in naming one state institution in this country that has done so well, even during time of his appointments, a lot of people have reservations, even myself, that is an SLPP sympathizer but this gentleman came to that office. He has done a wonderful thing that is the PPRC; the PPRC Chairman Kwego, See how Chairman Kwego has conducted himself today. He has levied punishments against the SLPP, the APC; again, He has levied punishments against the APC and he has ruled on matters that have to do with the APC internally, objectively, that is the kind of man that every one of us should be proud of today [*Applause*].

Commissioner Amara, they are now saying, they are drawing reference at a time when you are a District Commissioner, at a time when you conducted elections in Kabala. They said the election results was not fair, according to the majority out there and they also cited your recent statements, where you were video, saying 2028 elections, you are going to conduct that election the same way.

Mr Speaker, we all in this country, and the international community, know that the elections of 2023 was highly contested; we all. It is because of those elections. Today, we have deep-rooted grievances. Deep-rooted, the country is deep-rooted divide. Sit down, sit down, you cannot object to a leader [*Laughter*]. These elections, today, has left us with deep-rooted problems that bond the Tripartite, you see here today. My brothers and sisters are not here. They were supposed to be here. They were supposed to be here, in debating. I am going to borrow the words of former President Koroma, what he said. Former President Koroma said, "boycotting is not fashionable, it is not applicable to modern day politics [*Applause*]. Dialogue, is a way to resolve our difference." So I am appealing to my brothers and sisters, let us dialogue.

The APC, let us dialogue with the SLPP. Let us sit with the SLPP and talk. Let us sit and discuss some of these things because this is the only country that we have. This is the only country that we have.

Mr. Speaker, you know I am rounding up my leader, so I am unlimited in terms of time.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable, carry on.....

**HON. MOHAMED BANGURA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker; and I say this to my brothers and sisters in the APC, the elections of 2023 has done and dusted. Temne man calls it, S.O.2 (Apa por), finished, it is done. If you want to contest an elections and win, forget about what the Ruling Party do or say; focus on your strategies. Focus on the ballgame; but today, we involved into these trivial things. The Commissioner of ECSL is here. He is going to be approved, no matter what. SLPP has the numbers to approve the Commissioner. So, on that understanding, it is just good for anyone to accept that fate, especially when we know that the Commissioner or that individual is the one who is going to conduct my elections.

Especially, so, I am not canvassing the Commissioner. I am talking to his conscience, so that tomorrow, when he will have announced that Mohamed Bangura is the President-Elect, nobody will contest that fact. Who is in this Well today that wants to oppose a President Mohamed Bangura of 2028? Nobody; even the gallery, even the Speaker, Nobody.

On that note, Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate to the Commissioner that the lives of 7-8 million people are in your hands. The happiness, the peace of this country are tied to the 2028 elections. Please, I want you to go there with a very impartial mind. See every one of us as a player. All political parties as aplayers that is why they say, when you play bad, you get a red card or a yellow card but please, treat us as one.

On that note, Mr. Speaker, I want to wholeheartedly support the appointments and the approval of Sylvester Alpha and the rest of the nominees in this Well that are here that they are all beautiful, good-looking, and ready to serve this country.

I wish you all the best of luck in your respective offices. I thank you [*Applause*].

**THE SPEAKER:** I will give special leave to a lady for 5 minutes and I will give special leave to my Deputy Speaker for 5 minutes. Please, 5 minutes.

***Suspension of S.O 5[2]***

**HON. NENEH LIBBIE:** Thank you. Mr Speaker, for giving us that opportunity; I have asked my President and she has kindly consented that I should speak on behalf of the ladies here. Thank you for that consideration.

**THE SPEAKER:** Speak for the women of Sierra Leone.

**HON. NENEH LIBBIE:** Yeah, the women of Sierra Leone, because that is what all of us are supporting. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today is another very important day, like all speakers have expressed, that we have nominees for approval, but we have a very special one amongst the nominees that we need to talk about but before I do so, let me appreciate His Excellency the President, because we always cry as women of Sierra Leone that we want to see representatives at every level of governance and today, that has been properly demonstrated.

We have fine ladies, ladies of substance that are going to different offices to represent us. I want to quickly say His Excellency has done well, because he always thinks of that. He always looks amongst women, eminent women, to see how much they can represent us. What I can say in this light, you are going to those offices as good Sierra Leoneans. If you check, you see there are more qualified ladies in Sierra Leone. Qualification for ladies is not a problem. We have our ladies out there, but if you have been chosen, make sure you do the work and do it effectively and make us proud as women of Sierra Leone.

Now, quickly, Mr. Speaker, let me move to an eminent brother of ours, ours as Sierra Leoneans. Much has been said about him. I am in the Appointment Committee and I listened to all what he said. I want to assure this House that I have every confidence in what he told us in that Committee. He has already started demonstrating it. He is not on apprenticeship. He is not going to that office as an apprentice. He is going there with wealth of experience. He has proven records that we can trust him and that is why I stand here to approve, to give my word, to support all others who have spoken before me, to say that I am proud of him; but, Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I will be

remiss in my duty as a member of the great school from Bo, St Andrew Secondary School, if I do not talk about Mr. Sylvester Alpha as a member of that association. I am proud of you, you have made us proud, you know, we too have produced students that can now man the affairs of Sierra Leone. Today we have the Electoral Commissioner. We used to have a Secretary to the President. We have all these very good Sierra Leoneans that have served in these offices but this time around, Mr. Alpha, you are not just going there to serve OSASA, You are going there to represent OSASA. You know our motto "that we will be of service". You are going to serve Sierra Leone this time. Not only St. Andrews and one thing, Mr. Speaker, we do not only serve St. Andrews, but we always serve in any capacity you see us or you put us.

So today, Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr. Alpha, I do not need to go into history of what our colleagues on the other side always do, you know, if it is not theirs, it is bad. If it is a suggestion from somebody else, particularly from this other wing, it is always bad but if it is theirs, it is always good, do not mind them; be just mindful of being a Sierra Leonean. Be mindful of the fact that, like others has said you are going to that office to bring peace to this country and I know that you are going to serve us effectively and diligently.

In the Appointment Committee, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members, he promised to work with women, eminent women. We will be visiting you. We will be visiting your office. We will be performing oversight functions. We will be going there to check and see how many women you have in your office. We want to see women perform. They are there, we are here. We are performing, so you have more to perform, we will be visiting to see that that happens.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members, today we have Mr. Alpha and we believe that the faith of Sierra Leone's democracy lies in his hands and I believe and I support the approval of Mr. Alpha, because I know when he gets to that office, he is going to serve Sierra Leone. I wish you well and I wish all the other nominees well. I congratulate you in advance. And I hope that you diligently serve in the different offices.

Thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Deputy Speaker.....

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, today I am the muezzin of Parliament. If you want to address me, address me properly. You address me as the muezzin [*Undertone*] Yes. Sheikh Alhaji Doventure.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members. I am here today because, and I believe so, together with colleagues, Members of Parliament, because we trust not in the wisdom only of President Julius Madaa Bio but we also trust that Section 170, Sub-section 1 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991 has been adhered to in full.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members, for the edification of the public, you will permit me to read Sub-section 1 of Section 170. It reads, "The laws of Sierra Leone shall comprise, [A] this Constitution". Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, because of this Constitution, that was why, when the agreement of national unity was drafted, in the preambles, Paragraph C of the preamble states, and I read, "noting that the laws of the Republic of Sierra Leone, especially the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991, are sacrosanct."

Mr. Speaker, I have never seen a Constitution, or the Gorno, as Kelsey called it, being suspended when a democratic government is in power; Mr. Speaker, I have never seen that. Mr. Speaker, permit me to take you to the Constitutional Review Committee documents, particularly, page 242, the CRC of Justice Edmond Kawa.

The recommendation on 8.10; it reads, with your leave, Mr. Speaker, "it says the issue of the appointment of Electoral Commissioners was thoroughly debated and due consideration was given to all submissions and position papers. The CRC therefore recommends that there should be no change to Section 32[3] of the 1991 Constitution." Mr. Speaker, let me shock you and surprise you, that the recommendation of the CRC of Justice Edmund Kawa late, in the white paper published by the APC-led Government, this is the white paper, Mr. Speaker, the recommendation and the response of government reads thus, "that Section 32[3]; which provides for the appointment of electoral commissioner by the President after consultation with leaders of all political parties, and subject to the approval of Parliament, government accepts this recommendation and retains Section 32 [3]".

Mr Speaker, I have never seen a President in power who is exercising Section 71 of his powers, of his sacred powers, pursuant to Section 53, the executive powers, that was decided by the Supreme Court of this country and that President is told by an opposition that is in haste. Everybody should be in a haste at this particular point in time because we have been in this Chamber in the Fifth Parliament, when appointments were made one year to elections, they say those appointments have been made with the tricky to win the election. Now, appointment is made, two years before the election, you say the President is in a rush, what should this President do?

Mr Speaker, but let me tell the nation what happens. The point is, the fact that the APC has been in power for 35 continuous years, the APC is of the full assumption that this country belongs to them. Mr Speaker, this is the fact. I have been saying this and I will

not allow anybody to tell you, because the public is gullible, that my father was APC, my own father, biological father, "tranga APC" S.O [2], Mr Speaker, but I grew up under him, in his house, and he realized that what he was doing was not right because what he was doing, he was employed at the time, during Siaka Steven, to carry ballot boxes, and to take them to Siaka Steven. That was his job, to rig elections. So Mr Speaker, because of that, the APC always believed that this country belongs to them and they see us in the SLPP, SO2, "that naneke we dey cam neke", they give us opportunity. I have not seen a party that has acted in bad faith, and that is as deceitful as the APC. Because, even the agreement of national unity that they kept on referring to, Mr Speaker says, the constitution of this country is sacrosanct.

Their own white paper says that we should retain section 32 [3]. Why do they think, as Members of Parliament, that a proposal presented by a minister, by a government, would be passed by this House? What created that impression? Where does that assumption born from? It is because they feel that the public is gullible, and the public does not have time to read, and the public only allows and accepts whatever they say, hook, line, and sinker. Mr Speaker that is why the press and the Forth Estate should be objective enough.

They should do their research. And they must say the truth as they are. Because any attempt to change the context, any attempt to brand what they think should please the opposition, is an attempt to create and render this country in dispute.

The APC should know that President Bio is the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. If he had acted unconstitutionally, Mr. Speaker, me, I would not be here today. Because the provision in section 32, which requires him to consult with other political parties, Mr Speaker, I heard the last time somebody said we have to define consultation.

I think consultation is properly defined in section 171 [14]. Mr Speaker, with your leave? So, 171 [14]. It says, "Were under any provision of this Constitution, any person or authority authorized or required to exercise any function after consultation with some other persons or authority. The person or authority shall not be required to act in accordance with the advice of that other person or authority and the question whether such consultation was made shall not be inquired into by any court of law."

When I came in this morning, I saw my leader strenuously submitting evidence of approval of consultation. It is because we have a President that is civilized. Mr. Speaker, that is all because we have a President that is civilized. In the SLPP, I have been in the SLPP as a boy. I was there when John Oponjo Benjamin was consulted via the phone on the appointment of Dr. Christiana Thorpe that, oh, the President wants to appoint Christiana Thorpe, "so dem say mak we tell you" and that was it that was the consultation.

The consultation ended at a phone call; one phone call, but President Julius Maada Bio, because he is civilized.

**THE SPEAKER:** I think it was Christiana Thorpe.

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** It was Christiana Thorpe.

**SPEAKER:** Ah, okay.

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** It was Dr. Christiana Thorpe. The appointment of Dr. Christiana Thorpe.

**THE SPEAKER:** Ah, okay, okay, yes, yes. Yes, 2012. Yes

Okay, yes, 2012. Yes.

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Unfortunately, you have ruled.

**THE SPEAKER:** He is a leader. He is a leader, Honourable Bangura.

Unfortunately, you have ruled.

**HON. MOHAMED BANGURA:** For clarity purposes. I want to make it clearly

**THE SPEAKER:** I think that was the second appointment of Christiana Thorpe.

Yes, proceed.

**HON. MOHAMED BANGURA:** I want to be clearly made it known here that as Chairman of all political parties, then political parties are invited at State House, not on phone calls, to talk on the issue, including the SLPP.

**HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH:** Mr. Speaker, he has said in his debates that when N'fa Ali was appointed, he was the Chairman of APA. When Dr. Christiana Thorpe was appointed, I am sure he was the leader, for the second time in 2012, I am sure he was the leader of UDM. Yes. Mr Speaker, I do not know but I am sure he was the leader of

UDM. So, I do not know what position is espousing, but I know my position is clear and straightforward. So, if you have a civilized president in government, a democrat, a man that believes that the constitution of this country, which puts him as the guardian of this constitution, the guardian of this law, sends out letters to political parties, allow political parties, I had a particular political party, invited the proposed nominee for an interview, and the nominee obliged accordingly.

Mr. Speaker, for him to have allowed all of that, is because he believes in the simplicity of this Constitution. So, I see no reason why the APC is not here they are not here because they intend to use the playbook of 2007 and it will not work, it will not work. You see those that were in Parliament at that time, they were timid. They were afraid and let me tell you what is in this election for me; it is my life, Mr. Speaker.

I was born in the Western Area. My family is from Tonko-Limba. So, if anything happens in this election, I have nowhere to go. I would fulfill the scripture, that the foxes have holes, that the birds of the air have nests, but the son of man would have no place to lay his head. So, if a president appoints the Electoral Commissioner, whom has been in that position, he has been in that commission for a very long time, he has been there when the APC won. In fact, I have said on the radio, that when the APC was struggling to empanel Commissioners in 2012, for the result to have validity, Mr. Speaker, he was there. Can we say he has already set a stage that he will not be a fair umpire? No. He has been patriotic, period! And there is also something I want to say, Mr. Speaker, before I sit. People will go of the notion that, oh, the APC was not here, or the APC is not in the chamber, so the approval of the Electoral Commissioner is conditional, it is not. Section 89 of this Constitution is clear what constitutes quorum of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, I will read it, so nobody will leave this place with doubt in their mind that, oh, the Commissioner was not properly approved. He said, quorum in Parliament. He said, "If objection is taken by any Member of Parliament, that there are present in Parliament, besides the person presiding, less than one-fourth of all Members of Parliament" and in this Parliament, one-fourth is 37. I am sure we are more than 37. So whatever we decide, whatever we decide here forms part of the decisions of Parliament. So the public should know this *[Applause]*.

So, Mr Speaker, 62, we are still more than 62. And the Paramount Chiefs are here; the APC is represented here, and let us assume that the APC did not come at all. The point is, the quorum of Parliament in the Constitution has been fulfilled. So, Mr. Edmond Alpha, as you go to your office, I would encourage you, I know the public election act of 2023 did not take into consideration, Mr. Speaker that is my concern; I have started saying it,

the role, responsibilities and duties of election observers. We have seen the way election observers have threaded into uncharted territories, trying to fuel conflict in this country.

I would advise you that as we try to define set rules for election observers, let us have election observers that have credible CSOs, or let us have election observers that are not faceless because I will tell you particularly, I heard undertone from my brother, he mentioned a particular election observer, NEW. NEW, according to their manual supposed to be a conglomerate of 300 plus CSOs. We must examine those CSOs, Mr. Speaker. We have a Governance Committee in this Parliament, and section 93 (4) gives you the power to empanel a Committee to investigate issues of public interest. That is an issue of public interest. Because if NEW is being funded by international organizations for and on behalf of 300 CSOs that are not in existence, it is an issue of public interest. It is of public interest, Mr. Speaker, like it or not [*Applause*].

So I am concerned that an entity that claims to have 375 other organizations as part of its body is unable to summon a meeting of 20 of them to make a decision and besides, you cannot observe an election when your democratic credential is under question. Masella Samba Sesay has been at the helm of NEW for more than fifteen years and if you attempt to amend the Constitution during the President's term, they will tell you it is unconstitutional.

What is she doing? Is it constitutional? We need to know. The document needs to be produced to Parliament so we understand exactly the people that are going to observe our elections, whether they have the credential. So, proposed nominee, when you go to your seat, I encourage you to look at all of your observer missions to make sure that they meet the thresholds that you set for the election.

Make sure the preparation for the next election is watertight. That no political party, including us the SLPP, and the APC, will complain. What we want is a free, fair, and transparent election. Something that is very, very difficult to attain, Mr. Speaker. To date, in the State of the Union, a few days ago, President Trump is still proposing that America now uses an election identification card because in his view and in his opinion, elections rig in America from time in memorial. These are not my words. He said it in the State of the Union. He has said it over and again.

So, you are occupying a very delicate balance. Like the judges, to arbitrate between people is very difficult. But we have seen what Konvirah has done for you. You have been able to uphold the balance. He has been a good arbiter. We trust you, we trust your experience, and we trust your criticism.

To the other nominees, Mr. Speaker, we want to wish you well I am sorry your appointment is not contentious and your appointment does not require any constitutional explanation. But for him, we also need to explain why we are here. We are here not because we are SLPP or because of President Bio, we are here because of Section 97. We are representatives of the people of Sierra Leone. So, whatever that comes to us, we are going to treat it with the seriousness it deserves.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to join other speakers to seek the blessing of this Parliament to expeditiously approve these nominees so that they can go to their offices and work. Thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Leader of Government Business....

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you very much, my Deputy Speaker, thank you Honourable Mohamed Bangura. I have met you for over 20 years at a very struggling time. When I came to Parliament at the age of 32 to 33, maybe 33, I met you at the stadium hostels and then you were at PMDC. So, we met a young politician that is not for public consumption purely meant for... Thank you, Honourable Deputy Leader of Government Business One. I thank you very much for your presentations and trying to put the records straight. I will dwell on your presentations that you have made to this Honourable House.

The reason why we are doing this from the Fifth Parliament of the Second Republic, we are now at the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic. We are not from a Rubber Stamp Parliament. We are not, we are not. My colleagues on the other side, they can attest to that, that their past laws classify us as a very strong Parliament and today, other Parliaments are coming here for experience sharing.

1. Is the repeal of the Obnoxious Law.
2. The Libel Law.
3. Is the enactment of the GIWI Act that is a novelty in the sub-region. The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is a novelty in the sub-region.

The third one, that our elections reforms. We took over four months in doing election reforms. We debated the Public Elections Act 2022 for four months and we were able to

sail through. The journalists sent our phone numbers to the media so that people could attack us. Some of us, we used that platform to change their way of thinking and their way of behaving in terms of dealing with Nationalists. We did not act like them, but we used moral standing to transform them to be better Sierra Leoneans.

The fear of accidents cannot stop us from driving. I am properly seated here to give a clear picture of what has happened; when I was in the opposition and today I am here as Leader of Government Business. Mr Speaker, let me start by supporting the quorum quoted that we do have and let me also join that one by Section 91 of the Constitution, by voting. It is very important. I vote in in-terms of appointments. Mr Speaker, permit me to read this provision; Section 91 because you are going to vote, we already have quorum. We are not going to wait for people to tell us what to do but by the law, we know what to do. Section 91, Mr Speaker, with your leave.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes proceed.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you! Voting in Parliament. Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, any question proposed for the decision in Parliament shall be determined by a majority of votes of Members present and voting and Members present and voting. So for this case, we are going to use Section 91; for Members present and voting. Mr Speaker, by extension, they said we want to alter the Constitution when we started this whole business of trying to do reforms.

I am again hearing from what my colleague said when they prepared the White Paper. That position, the Search Committee, came from us when we were in the opposition. We tried them, and they rejected that they are not going to accept it and it is in your White Paper that they are not going to surrogate their powers based on First Section 53 of the Constitution used by the executive powers which you have seated. My landlady colleague, very clear.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Proposals are not laws. Proposals are not laws, Bills, are proposals to Parliament. Today I can move my colleagues; I can have any proposal to throw it out. So be it but we are Democrats. A proposal cannot intend to alter the Constitution but in fact, Section 108, sub-section 8 gives this Parliament the power to alter the Constitution. Let me read, because they said, we have altered the Constitution. You can fool people sometimes but you cannot fool people all the time. As you said, they have stayed in government for too long. 11 years they did not change the rules or procedure. Now they are trying foul. We proposed to them on this same proposal that my colleague has read, they did not change, came from us. Self-transparency because

the then Electoral Commissioner, Madam Christiana Thorpe. When she had any right to invalidate our results, she did without legislation. No law supported her. She did and Solomon Ekuma Berewa. His niece is here today for approval. He accepted the result on the grounds of peace and reconciliation and for Sierra Leone to forge ahead.

People are using elections as a conduit for violence, war, we on this other side as I said the other day; let's break the code. We support the good intention, as we did for the independence. As we did for the signing of the Lome Peace Accord, we sacrificed. We called Foday Sankoh et al to serve in governance for the sake of this nation. We cannot bastardize our constitution, so these provisions I have stated by any means, we cannot attempt to alter the Constitution by any means, but we use the full force of the law. Section 108 of Section 8; use Parliamentary powers to alter the Constitution and in such easily. They are now telling the people that you have to alter the Constitution by only proposing a Bill to the people of this country. They told us in 2012 to 2023. S.O.2 "action pass intention" that is what they told us, I was there in 2012; Action pass intention.

Pleasing excuses even when we proposed things, when we are on records of good governance. They were on records of bad governance. They are on record for bad governance. So we cannot just go and alter the constitution as they are feeling it.

This is Sierra Leone. We SLPP; when we speak about democracy, we have evidence to speak in fact that. We have the quality, the caliber of people in SLPP, to further our democracy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues. As I have said, I read, he said, strenuously. I was trying to prove the Provision of 32 [3]. By extension 32[4]; and also to prove to this Honourable House, that the rules of procedure were followed and trying to get the spirit of section 32 [3]. We got a letter or the registered political parties, listed from PPRC.

Mr Speaker, let me re-teach this House and the people and the country at large. Section [35] of the Constitution, 35 [1], 35 [2]; Mr Speaker for PPRC, let me read 35[1] and [2] Mr Speaker. With your leave, if you permit me, I will read slowly.

**THE SPEAKER:** proceed...

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you. "Subject, the signed notes colleagues. Registration and conduct of political parties. Registration and conduct of political parties. Subject to the provision of this Section. Political parties may be established to participate in shaping the political will of the people. To disseminate information on political ideas

and social and economic programs of a national character and to sponsor candidates for presidential, parliamentary or local government elections 35 [3].

Mr Speaker with your leave; "The internal organization of a political party shall conform to democratic principles, and its aims, objectives, purposes and programs. Shall not contravene" Mr Speaker, shall not contravene or be inconsistent with any provisions of this constitution.

Mr Speaker, Section 32 [3] as my colleagues said, if we have flouted provisions of the Constitution. He has no business to sit here. We have not flouted any provision in the appointment of Mr. Edmond Sylvester Alpha. In fact what he has done; that is why we call him father of democracy. He has seen it all. A man who has been vilified unnecessarily, Bastardized, chastised. I have never seen a sub-region. A presidential candidate that has been verified that has been molested like President Bio. I have never seen that. He was attacked in Bo. I was with him, we came to court. They are mocking us. They use the court to mock us. They did not treat the case seriously. I have never seen such humiliation. President Bio, you are a man of God, a man of the people, a pure and applied democrat.

The key from that, Mr Speaker, and my colleagues, I read the letter they sent to the president in the affront they disrespect. He has not abrogated any provision in the constitution. What he has done. He has just cleansed 32 [3] by taking it to some levels, as Honourable Tawa said, "Cutting the Constitution. The president has no business even to go further by defining Constitution.

But he has cleansed that provision. Political parties. Mr Speaker Honourable Colleagues, for me, just because the respect of leadership. They have sent out two letters. The president sent out a letter for them to discuss and arrange and accept or reject the appointment in the form of consultations of the approval of Mr. Edmond Alpha. They ought to know better. I have been in governance for far too long. I was expecting them to approach the President; both in writing and in physical terms that is what we did. When we had issues under the administration leadership of John Oponjo Benjamin. We did that one under the late U.N.S Jah. When our results were invalidated, we took the use of law and the re-appointment of Christiana Thorpe and Mohamed Bangura said, "We should not be celebrating in the appointment of the Chief Electoral Commissioner at all levels."

We should be questioning the Electoral Commissioner because we have seen where we appointed Dr. Christiana Thorpe. Dr. Christiana Thorpe and Solomon Berewa were so

happy and he said, "She is my Catholic sister." Classification of nomenclature and support in descriptive terms cannot show the characteristics of human beings until they are put to personal trial. Mr. Speaker, she invalidated 477 polling stations in Kailahun. In specific just to give their power and there was a slogan, Kailahun Court Barry. There are prayers and singing, mockery us. Solomon Ekuma Belewa. Blessed memory, the negotiator for Lome Peace Accord. He is in heaven, trust me. He is in heaven.

He said: "I am not going to consult anybody. I am going directly and congratulate him." He did this on record; S.O.2 when they asked him. [I want to save this nation] just from a civil war, brutal civil war on record in the sub-region and beyond the sub-region and he apologized to us and he said in his interview. She had no business in invalidating those results, no law supported her Mr. Speaker, we accepted because you must respect your leader, trust your leader that should show that I am respecting and trusting the leadership we have. They do not have respect for leaders of other political parties or even respects of a president who they were with eleven years, they did not change the laws but to misinform the public. Mr Deputy Speaker, we are not gullible to the extent that we montage our education. We are not gullible to the extent that we cannot read between lines. We are not gullible to the extent that we do not feel the suffering of our people. Who feels it, knows it.

We appointed Christiana Thorpe and he took us to opposition. We were there and the second time, colleagues. She said when she had the laws to invalidate and she described us after a few days and she used the radio and said go police. Ex-Predecor We on this other side, President Bio then at that time opposition candidate, Opposition leader. John Oponjo Benjamin was the Chairman of the party; Chairman and leader of the party at that time. We went to court, they ruled against us and he said, "I respect the court but I disagree with their ruling." A Democrat.

As President Bio told us that, I respect the Court but I do not accept their ruling. I will move on, He went to the State House. They called him. He was there in a meeting and he expressed his dissatisfaction too but the call of the President at that moment, Ex-President Ernest Bai Koroma, the Fountain of Honor at that time, he went there. So you should behave as a Democrat because he has the handsight. He transformed this country at a very critical moment from a struggled country, dying country to a democratic state giving at his own personal selfishness saying for the sake of this nation, I will even sacrifice my friends, my brother that is where we are today but let me not come to describe why we should believe in him and why we should accept his nominations. In 2023, we took four months discussing the public relations Act in 2023. I said I am better suited to tell the nation the truth.

Today is the moment we were chastised, Honourable Chernor Maju Bah and I. They were calling me as I speak, Mr Speaker, I have the voice notes. I said I do not chase them because I am a leader. When doubts are **smelted** on you, people describe you in their own language at times. It just defines their upbringing. They just told me their upbringing.

So what we have done, in 2023 after we have struggled to put in place election laws. They went to Brookfield's Hotel. In August 19 2021 before the enactment of public relations act, proposed to us that should deal with the PR system. They all accepted and other reforms, most of those reforms were enacted in the public relations Act 2022 and after election 2023. They did not go to Court.

As I said, we are not responsible if your education cannot serve you to be a civilized person but if you are carefully educated, Mr Speaker, you should be able to clearly distinguish between what is good as a right citizen and what is bad as another citizen. I should be able to understand Section 97 of the Constitution, as a Member of Parliament, what you should do to come to Parliament and what you should not do to tell your political party, not to come to Parliament; 97 of the Constitution. Honourable Mohamed Bangura, God bless you, I respect your view. Honourable Thompson, God bless you. I respect you both. You have no case. You are fully covered by section 97 of the constitution. In fact, section 171; sub-section 50 of the national Constitution. Any variation, inconsistency with that of the national constitution is done and void and in fact that is expressly stated in section 35 of the Constitution "that political party should conform themselves to this Constitution."

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, so in 2023 after the elections, these colleagues to this nation. Today, they are bluffing, sounding, trumpeting the Peace Commission; I was the one who moved the motion for Peace Commission and I debated. Sometimes you do not follow the messenger, you look at the content of what they are doing and you have to be futuristic because we are futuristic on this other side and we have vision for this country which we have demonstrated.

Professor Francis, the then Chief Minister presented that Bill to this Chamber. My colleagues on the other side. At that time Honourable Ibrahim Kargbo was sitting there. They marched out for us to strengthen our democracy for us to express some of the recommendations from the TRC report that we should have a Peace Commission. So we can sit somewhere. We can have a platform where we can discuss issues affecting this nation. They forgot about all the goodies because Professor Francis described them. "As racketeers and thieves." They marched out of the Chamber. They did not follow the spirit

and the intent of the Bill we had on the left but as I said we have the goodwill of the people of this country. We have them at heart. We enacted the Commission that Bill today; the Peace Commission was enacted by the Fifth Parliament of the second Republic that is what they are quoting today. It is the same Peace Commission who set the tripartite committee.

The same Peace Commission we are talking about which they ran away from. They marched out because they do not believe in the messenger. They do not believe in their way of behaving but we went ahead and we went to that Commission, to that Committee called by the Peace Commission. Why? Because we have respect for democratic institutions. I was there since day one, to the last day.

The Tripartite Committee report has no force of law. I will tell everybody, it is a recommendation. In fact in the drafting of some of the Clauses, they wanted to put a legal language. I said, "Do not use it". And the man from AU supported me. A very well learned lawyer said no, you cannot put investigation well with that report. We are not saying we cannot look at those recommendations but they are not here to see. They are dictating to us in the most disrespectful manner. They cannot disrespect the president and they allow us to sit with them in such a fashionable manner to discuss issues of national interest. Respect comes first. They have been in governance for 11 years. They know the powers of the presidency. They want to molest the seat of the presidency not for President Bio, but for goodness sake, for the respect of this nation, respect that seat  
*[Applause]*.

Mr. Speaker. Honourable Members, we are fully aware of the provisions of the Public Relations Act. 2022 enacted by this Parliament. Section (92) and section (143) of the Public Relations Act. My colleague let me refer you, 92 has to do with the District Returning Officer polling station results. They are misinforming the people of this nation these aggregated results. This aggregated result in the committee meeting that was called by Peace Commission; I said there is nothing in the electoral language disaggregated results. We refer to them by polling station results. For every institution, they have their own jargons how they describe their own way of doing things. Read section 92. I do not want to disturb you but that is what you should use to aggregate these results. That is what we go up to for the national pronouncement.

For the national result of elections, Section 92, 143 of the Public Relations Act again. 143 that has to do with elections offenses, petitions and Courts; those provisions with a

caption "Election offenses and petition Courts". You do not take to the streets to look for political justice or to look for electoral justice; Electoral justice rather. You do not take it to the streets to ask for electoral justice, you go to the courts. We started APC in this Chamber, we enacted these laws, they forgot about the laws. They abrogated the position. They disrespected the laws and started to tell people to go to the streets. Try to create disturbances. Try to see our city cannot govern because we are in full respect of the law. We are respecer of the society of what we have enacted in this Parliament. We decided to engage under the Peace Commission because it is an act of Parliament. Mr Speaker, Honorable Colleagues, you cannot misinform people when the writings are very clear.

In Section 92 of polling results and section 143 election offences and petition courts. You do not respect those provisions and you try to instigate citizens, your supporters to follow you to go to the streets to cause unnecessary crisis in this country. We cannot accept it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I have done bits of this edification by citing the provisions in the Public Elections Act and by extension my colleagues, as they have read, The White Paper presentation and by extension, certain agreements that we have done, we are in full gear, and in full position as I have read in my paper from my report in full compliance of the law to appoint Mr Edmond Sylvester Alpha as the proposed Chief Electoral Commissioner to man the 2028 elections [*Applause*].

Mr Speaker, we have no regrets in doing it. Our basis of doing it is because we are fully supported by the law. The law is fully backing us. We have seen it both in the opposition and we have seen it when we are in government we should be sincere. We should present ourselves as credible politicians now; for far too long the people of this country has no respect or confidence in politicians. President Bio has taken a new trajectory to change the dynamics. They call him talk and Do; so look at the transformative drives, you should be a listening leader which he has done in the form of consultations but they have refused to understand but we cannot hold them. If they cannot understand, let them stand on it that is their responsibility.

Mr Speaker, I told you, 17 political parties. 13 approved the appointment of Mr. Edmond Sylvester Alpha and they are also here in this Chamber. Thank you very much for coming. Thank you for behaving like an actual citizen. Tomorrow if you also take another channel. I know you can challenge us. If you are not doing the right thing for good governance, they do not believe in good governance. They are only trumpeting what they think is good for them.

What is good for the good is good for the gander and we are here not because we want to uproot anything. We are here basically because we have the law supporting us to this appointment and as I said; we have responsibilities on this station, Mr Edmond Alpha has acted for 7 months, as Chief Electoral Commissioner. Can we put him there just acting? He has limited authority in that position and doubling as a Commissioner for South Africa. How can we function? as Honourable Ibrahim said.

We do electoral reforms, one year towards time, you challenged us. We do electoral reforms, two years towards time, you challenged us. Where do we stand? Jungle justice? We do not believe in Jungle Justice, we believe in the Rule of Law [.....]

Mr Speaker, let me give you a story; in 2012, I was here, this is real. This is good for us to know. I was in this Chamber, I was sitting right there, the second row on the other side. They brought in electoral reforms less than 6 months towards elections. To pay my election fees Le 100,000,000 and they Gazette it in the form of a statutory instrument. They thought we do not have money to pay but it is not about money, it is about the rules of procedures. It is about obeying what we have ratified in this House. What we have all unaccepted in the sub-region, ECOWAS protocol cannot permit you to change election rules, less than 6 months towards the election date and they brought it less than 6 months towards election date.

May the souls of Honourable Elizabeth Lavallie. May the souls of Honourable Emmanuel Tommy rest in perfect peace. They stood up over there, they came back to the Floor of the Chamber to Mr Speaker and took the paper. We tore it apart and we disrupted the House sitting because they were doing the wrong thing.

Mr Speaker, let me tell you the truth. They went ahead with the payment. In fact calculating the benefit for late Elizabeth Lavallie and late Emmanuel Tommy, their monies were deducted. Yes, they purported the then President; Ernest Bai Koroma said, I will pay for them what they cannot pay. We said we are not going to pay because we cannot bastardize the law, is on record; they paid.

I cannot challenge anybody on that because I was very close to the Chairman then. I was very close to President Bio at that time; the opposition candidate Mr Speaker. We are not saying we are going back to the old days but let us transform our ways of doing things, that is why we should believe in the rule of law. We should believe in the law that you have enacted. We can challenge you one million times if the rules are not appropriate to implement; that is why we said we have not done anything wrong, we are taking it back, taking the provisions one after the other, talking about the issues we have at hand. We have tried very much to accommodate our colleagues. President Bio has tried as much as he can to make sure that our colleagues on the other side understand the

language of pure democracy and the principles of the rule of law but they have refused to understand the dictates of democracy supported by the Rule of Law to take to the jungle justice. We cannot accept that one.

So at this moment colleagues, I will not go over all of the nominees because it is fully alright. I cannot take you one by one but let me tell you Mr Speaker as we sit here, we do not put square peg in round holes. The PPRC Act, the Gender Equality Act is in full view to support women in position of trust that is why I quoted section 58 Sub-section 2. A section 58 Sub-section 2 colleague is there to support women. Today you do the calculations; we have more than 30% of women appointed. This group there, more than 30%. We do not just shout but we implement the rule of law and support document that we have passed in this House that gives us confidence and trust to the people of this country; that is what President Bio is doing. We are not doing any wishy-washy business. We are carefully going through the rudiment of democratic processes and make sure that things are done the appropriate way that is why you see the Paramount Chiefs are supporting us. It is not because we are using the state powers against them. We are engaging them constructively not destructively. We are not threatening them to take them off their powers but we have dialogue with them to understand the democratic processes of President Bio that is why we respect the women that are here and we continue to bring more women into the fold of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, they do not believe in these things. Today the women are enjoying. Section 58 Sub-section 2. On that day, they did not participate when I brought in that provision. Mr Speaker, they did not participate but they are enjoying it. We do not make laws for one set of people, we make law for the good of all; that is how we are, we the SLPP and so thank you very much for accepting the nomination from President Bio but we know you can continue, you are not square place around round.

I read a resume. They have served 25 years, 40 years. Lawyers you check them. Look at them sitting here, they can challenge the men. We are not putting them into inferior positions. We placed them at senior positions, at a higher management level, Chairperson, NASSIT; Look at that one, very effective.

The woman coming in, Madam Lulu Sheriff. She was an ambassador and high Commissioner to Gambia and other countries. She is now coming to serve in the board with wealth of experience, having served as a principal, having served as principal at her first school for years for over 20 years. We are not the type of people in governance that try to do..... Thank you.

As I said, we are not running a shambolic administration by no means, they were in governance for 11 years, more than the normal time. We did not; we are not like that,

we are pure and applied citizens, well cleansed with the blessings of One People One Country, well disciplined; we have respect for leadership. So, Mr Speaker, I want to say, I will join my colleagues to say, I will present this candidate especially for the ladies to be approve by Honourable Members of this House.

Whiles they have electoral justice? It is in this realm of power we have assumed the seat of the Security Council as president presided twice. In the same vein, whiles they discredited President Bio, he has also become the chairman of ECOWAS Office of State today. Whiles they discredit us? My brother, my predecessor, who acted as Chairman, he is a leader and president. Do not mind them. Whiles they discredit us? That we are bastardizing constitutions, we have no respect for people, and people in international platform do not respect us. Honourable Sidie Tunis, my predecessor, who was a former Leader of Government Business, was the Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament. So, colleagues, wait. Look at the political formula.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Leader of Government Business.

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** Yes, sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Do you know Honorable Sidie Tunis is being missed today at the ECOWAS Parliament?

**HON. MATTHEW NYUMA:** Yes.

**THE SPEAKER:** Because ever since he left, nothing much is going on. So, everybody say, oh, Honourable Speaker, the former Speaker, the former Speaker, you have been missed. Thank you very much.

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** I will join Mr. Speaker to congratulate you for your service to this nation and beyond. Your words, your actions speak volume. Whiles they discredit us, sir? You served as the Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament and we continued. They say, we cannot win the elections at the Security Council and President Bio won. Whiles he was quiet listening? After going to the streets for looking for electoral justice, President Bio was crowned the Chairman of ECOWAS and Security Council.. Oh, no, that was not election. He was crowned the Chairman of ECOWAS at the Heads of State after how many years; that is so long. So, for us, it is not the vessel that causes unnecessary noise. It is a volume of ideas and political reforms. It is a respect that we have shown to the sub-region and beyond that has pushed on a portion of trust. We do not run shambolic government.....Oh, you are just adding to the credentials.

Mr. Chairman, he is the Chairman of C10 at AU, UN also. In fact, it is so much. Let them go and do the balance. I am not responsible for that edification.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, as I have said, all the nominees presented here, we support them because they are fit for purpose and they have demonstrated in their previous responsibilities as good citizens and we will continue to support them even when they are put by themselves.

**THE SPEAKER:** Leader of Government Business, I know you are a repository of knowledge and ideas.

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** I am summarizing now.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please do not forget.

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** I am learning.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please do not forget this is prayer time.

**HON. MATTHEW S. NYUMA:** I am learning now.

You know, they told me when I was speaking earlier on, they said, "we don't cancel the prayers" S.O.2. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, we are happy that we can get the attention of Sierra Leoneans to understand what we are doing as Parliamentarians. We understand that we cannot deprive the people of this country on a well constitutional footing or other legal instruments. We cannot misinform the public but we can help the public understand what we are doing here. So, Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to present to this House...

I have given all the descriptions of all what has transpired, given the support of why we are presenting these nominees to this Parliament for approval. We have given his proper definition and classification of everything that we have done and given the rules of procedures. I now submit to this Honourable House.

Mr Speaker, I therefore move that the seventh report of the Third Session of the Committee on Appointment and Public Service which was on February 25<sup>th</sup> and unanimously approved the recommendations to this House by the Members at the Committee Meeting of this report by the Appointment and the Public Service Committee be adopted by this House and the recommendations contained therein be approved. Mr Speaker, I so move. Thank you!

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Leader of Government Business.

Honourable Members, the question is that the Seventh Report of the Third Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service be adopted by the House under the recommendations contained therein be approved [*Interruption*]

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

*The motion of the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service has been approved*

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me at this stage on behalf of Parliament congratulate you on your approval. Go and do Sierra Leone good. Do your job without fear of favor, help this nation. Thank you very much, you may leave.

Chairman of Higher education, please meet me in my Chambers. Immediately after sitting. Honourable Members, occupy your seat. Honourable Members, occupy your seats. We are in the face of the Gallery that is not how it is done. Occupy your seats. Honourable Members, occupy your seats. Let us allow the Gallery to leave.

Sergeant at Arms, please ensure they hurry up. Let them hurry up.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Members of the Commission, we cannot meet today because other commissioners, most of the commissioners are not here, so we cannot meet today but we will meet when we return. In the circumstances, this sitting is adjourned to the 24th of March.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MR Speaker adjourned the House to Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 at 10 a.m. prompt.

***The House rose at 12: 55 p.m.***