

Post/Dept/Hansard/Vol...1/No...23/17/12/26



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 2025

SESSION – 2025/2026



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: ...II

NUMBER: ..23

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Wednesday, 17th December, 2025.

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CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

THE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Wednesday, 17th December, 2025.

1. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 10:25a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

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

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

2. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, as per our tradition we would skip the Pages that contain the names of Members of Parliament and we start our consideration at Page 5. Any amendment or correction on Page 5?, Page 6?, page 7?

HON. ABDUL MARRAY CONTEH: Mr Speaker, except otherwise, but I have not been able to locate the pages you mentioned; I think we stopped at Page 5. I don't know whether other Members have noticed that; let them check their Votes and Proceedings.

THE SPEAKER: Can you check your Tablets to know whether the pages of the Votes and Proceedings are complete.

HON. ABDUL MARRAY CONTEH: We are supposed to start at page 5, but Page 5 itself is empty.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, so there is no Page 5? The hard copy which I have with me has Page 5. The Honourable Members are saying that the soft copy in their Tablets does not have page 5. So you do not have all the other pages? ICT, what is the problem? So what did you upload? It is okay.

HON.ABDUL MARRAY CONTEH: Is this just reminding us that Page 5 is being expunged as a result of the instruction you gave yesterday?

THE SPEAKER: I did not say they should expunge the entire page; I requested for sentences to be expunged. Honourable Members, do we agree that we put aside the Votes and Proceedings for today and we consider it tomorrow? *[Accepted]* So Clerks, take note.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I do not have any announcement; I want us to go fast. Well, by Friday, I am sure I would wish everybody Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. *[Undertone]* we would be here on Friday *[undertone]* no, we

would continue on Saturday; maybe we would close on Friday, and I am sure that would please the Honourable Daniel Koroma because that would also constitute breaking the old age traditions that says Parliament do not sit on Saturdays, is that not so sir?

4. BILL.

THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 2026- THE MINISTER OF FINANCE –

[Second Allotted Day]

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY:

[The House resolved into to Committee of Supply]

VOTES

20501, 11007, 11801, 42801, 42804, 42803, 42802 40301, 13401, 11008, 11012, 12501, 70101, 70110 and 70107 stand part of the schedule.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE-Madam Kadiatu Allie, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the following votes stand part of the schedule;

MDAs ACCOUNT HEADS [INCLUDING SUB-HEADS] FOR 2026 FY

Vote	Div.	Vote Description	Amount [NLe]
205	01	Ministry of Internal Affairs	4,743,200.00
110	07	Political Parties Regulation Commission	6,144,100
118	01	The Judiciary	30,000,000
428	01	National Investment Board	5,365,000
428	04	Public Private Partnership Unit	1,500,000
428	03	Corporate Affairs Commission	1,000,000
428	02	Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency	2,500,000
403	01	Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources	5,529,400

134	01	Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone	99,985,300
110	08	Law Reform Commission	622,200
110	12	National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency [NaMED]	1,371,500
125	01	The Local Courts	400,000
701	10	Koinadugu District Council	12,034,904
701	07	Makeni City Council	4,700,958

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

REPORT OF THE SUB APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

COMPILED BY:

COMMITTEE NO. 4

SUBMITTED BY

.....

**HON. SULAIMAN MARRAY CONTEH
CHAIRMAN**

INTRODUCTION

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, consistent with the provisions on **Paragraphs [a&b]** of **subsection (3) of Section [111] and subsections [1,3&6] of section (112)** of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991 and **Standing Orders 64 [3] and 66 [1]** of the **Standing Orders [S.O.]** of the Parliament of Sierra Leone, the under-mentioned budgetary Votes Heads were committed to the **Appropriation Sub-Committee Group 4** and charged with the responsibility to review the Budgetary Estimates for the **Fiscal Year 2026** and proffer recommendations to the House thereof for budgetary allocations for 2025 FY.

Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members, in accordance with Paragraphs [a&b] of subsection (3) of Section [111] and subsections [1,3&6] of section (112) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991, as well as Standing Orders 64 [3] and 66 [1] of the Standing Orders of the Parliament of Sierra Leone, the specified budgetary Votes Heads were been assigned to the Appropriation Sub-Committee Group 4, this group is tasked with the mandate to review the Budgetary Estimates for the Fiscal Year 2026 and to make recommendations to the House concerning budgetary allocations for the Fiscal Year 2025.

Under the theme **“Enhancing Domestic Revenue Mobilisation for Sustained Economic Stability and Improved Service Delivery,”** the 2026 Budget focuses on enhancing current advancements by prioritizing domestic revenue and fostering national development. Key strategies of the 2026 Budget include augmenting revenue mobilization to decrease dependency on external assistance. Specific measures outlined in the budget involve the restoration of the Corporate Income Tax to **30%**, adjustments to fuel excise duties, expanding the Minimum Alternate Tax, the introduction of annual levies on vehicles and vessels, and efforts to enhance Goods and Services Tax [GST] compliance. This comprehensive approach aims to create a more sustainable economic environment.

Despite emphasizing revenue generation, the budget foresees an overall deficit of **NLe 4.4 billion**, which the government intends to cover through a combination of domestic and foreign financial sources, including grants. The specific objectives of the 2026 Budget are:

- a.** improve domestic revenue mobilization through tax measures that are pro-poor and pro-business;
- b.** leverage on innovative sources of mobilizing revenue to complement traditional sources;
- c.** Consolidate public finances through prudent expenditure management, whilst protecting pro-expenditure programmes **Pro-people Budget**
- d.** Preserve macroeconomic stability by maintaining single digit inflation, stabilising the exchange rate and addressing debt vulnerabilities to improve the business environment and the well-being of our people [**a Pro-poor and Pro-business people Budget**];
- e.** Support the Feed Salone Initiative to boost production, improve food security .create jobs and raise incomes of rural households [**a Pro-people Budget**];
- f.** Continue investments in human capital development to ensure a healthy, productive and skilled workforce [**a people –centered budget**];
- g.** Invest in infrastructure, including roads, energy, water supply and technology to improve the business environment and attract investment [**a Pro-business Budget**]; and
- h.** streamline the public sector architecture to improve efficiency in public service delivery and strengthen government institutions.

v

1. SCOPE OF THE EXERCISE

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, this Report covers 14 MDAs assigned to this Appropriation Sub-committee. Their proposed budget details are presented in the table below:

MDAs ACCOUNT HEADS [INCLUDING SUB-HEADS] FOR 2026 FY

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2. PROCEDURE

Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members, prior to the exercise, letters and questionnaires were distributed to all Vote Controllers, including past and present core staff. In accordance with S.O. 66, Vote Controllers were asked to answer questions relating to their budgetary allocations, and summarise their mandate execution to assess the efficient and prudent utilisation of financial resources.

During the hearings, the Committee observed traditionally established parliamentary procedures; i.e., reading the relevant provisions in the Constitution and the Standing Orders to emphasise the Committee's legal standing, and putting auditees on oath to ascertain the authenticity and accuracy of their responses, as inscribed in Section 93, Sub-section 6[a] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. Besides, in line with S.O. 73[20], the hearings were open to the public, but this Committee admonished media houses about premature publications of Committee decisions as contained in S.O. 75[1-3].

3. OBJECTIVES

Appropriation Sub-Committee 4 looked into the activities of the various MDAs assigned to it, with the aim of achieving the following Objectives:

- i. to conduct a comprehensive analysis of financial records in accordance with established regulations, particularly the Financial Management Regulations, to assess the adherence of MDAs to the prescribed guidelines in the utilisation of resources allocated for the 2026 Fiscal Year;
- ii. to evaluate the effectiveness of Vote Controllers in managing public funds and adherence to accountability standards as mandated by Section 112 [1] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone [Act No. 6 of 1991], which governs government expenditure decisions; and
- iii. to identify challenges related to the implementation of annual work plans while providing recommendations that enhance effective service delivery.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Composition of the Sub-Appropriation Committee Group 4 is as follows:

- i. HON. SULAIMAN MARRAY CONTEH – **Chairman**
- ii. HON. EDWARD GEORGE – DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
- iii. HON. ADAMA BANGURA
- iv. HON. ARUNA PAPAY SOLOMON LARKOH
- v. HON. ALUSINE BASH KAMARA
- vi. HON. PC. THOR SHEKU TERENAH TONGOS NEYA KONKOROBA FANKO LAI MARAH III
- vii. HON. SORIEBA ALHAJI TURAY
- viii. HON. MEMUNATU JALLOH
- ix. HON. MOHAMED BANGURA

x. HON.MOHAMED BILLOH SHAW

SUPPORT STAFF

1. Rita Sesay
2. Mohamed Francis Buanie – Assistant Clerk
3. Victoria Smith – Clerk of Committees
4. Mohamed Wurrie – PBO

v **GENERAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, following extensive review of all the MDAs allocated to this Committee, the Committee has formulated key observations and suggestions based on its findings. These recommendations aim to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the operations within these institutions. These are mentioned below:

i. Late Presentation of the Fiscal Strategy Statement to Parliament

The Committee observed that the Ministry of Finance continues to act in contravention of the provisions in **Sub-paragraphs [a-k] of Subsection [1] of Section [23] of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016** which requires the laying before Parliament a Fiscal Strategy Statement not later than the end of the 10th month of every financial year by the Minister of Finance.

The Committee recommends that the Minister of Finance should comply with the stipulations outlined in the Act and to continue doing so in the following years. Furthermore, the Committee urges this House to take strict measures should there be any violation of this Provision going forward..

ii. Delay Submission of Filled Questionnaire

The Committee observed a persistent issue with late submissions of Sub-Appropriation questionnaires, which has become widespread among many MDAs. This issue significantly contributes to delays in the overall appropriation process, with some MDAs presenting their questionnaires only on the day of the hearing.

The Committee recommends that the House imposes stringent penalties on Ministries, Departments, and Agencies that may violate this requirement going forward.

iii. Allocations to Ministries, Departments and Agencies

The Committee observed that many MDAs assigned to it have only received allocations for one or two quarters, with many of these allocations still pending delivery to their accounts. This issue is especially prevalent among Local Councils, indicating a significant gap in the funding process and execution for these entities.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance improves on the disbursement of financial resources to enable MDAs achieve their mandates effectively.

iv. Counterpart Funding to MDAs

Most MDAs faced significant difficulties concerning counterpart funding for development projects, which they reported adversely affected service delivery.

The Committee therefore recommended that the Government must fulfill its financial obligations punctually to enhance project implementation and improve service delivery outcomes.

v. Non-implementation of Sub-appropriation Committees' Recommendations

MDAs have been failing to implement recommendations from Sub-Appropriation Committees, leading to recurring issues each year.

To address this persistent problem, the Committee suggests that parliamentary Committees should utilise the Sub-Appropriation Committee Reports to investigate the activities of various MDAs throughout the country.

SPECIFIC FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

[VOTE 205 01]: MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is primarily charged with the responsibility of providing and ensuring internal security in Sierra Leone. It provides supervisory role to the Sierra Leone Police, Sierra Leone Correctional Service, National Fire Force, Sierra Leone Immigration Department, National Civil Registration Authority, National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency, Sierra Leone Commission on Arms and Ammunition and Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. The Ministry's strategic objective is to strengthen operations, Governance, Oversight and Accountability Mechanisms of the Internal Security and Safety Sector.

In 2025 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of **NLe 4,460,700** out of an original budget of **NLe 11,870,500**. The Committee observed that the Ministry received **NLe 1,208,215**, recording a decrease of **NLe 3,252,485**. This allocation was noted to have been expended on key deliverables, such as administrative and operating costs, border coordination, human resource planning and management, security related issues, budget preparation, development of ICT, implementation of national action plan, development of MIA strategic plan, rolling out of the CME office, monitoring and evaluation of agencies and support to the development of policies.

During the review period, the Ministry successfully achieved most of its key deliverable, including border coordination, human resource planning and management, security related issues, budget preparation, development of ICT, implementation of national action plan, development of MIA strategic plan, rolling out of the CME office, etc.

For 2026 FY, the Ministry submitted an original budget of **NLe 10,276,300**, but **NLe 4,700,000** was allocated, indicating a decrease of **5,576,300**. The allocation, according to the PS, would be utilised to implement the national action plan, develop the MIA strategic plan, roll out of the CME office, develop the ICT infrastructure, security issues, etc.

Given the significant budget shortfall, the Ministry was unable to implement all its activities outlined in their Annual Work Plan. This situation underscores the financial constraints impacting the Ministry's operational effectiveness and its capacity to meet planned objectives.

The Ministry is confronted with major mobility challenges that obstruct the movement of essential personnel, especially during security emergencies. This situation emphasizes the necessity for enhanced transportation and logistics solutions to facilitate timely responses. Additional issues include delayed fund disbursements, insufficient funding, understaffing, logistical limitations, and a faulty elevator.

Considering the vital role of the Ministry's broad mandate with respect to providing effective monitoring and supervision of the internal security sectors in the country, the Committee recommends the following:

- i. the Ministry's 2026 allocation of NLe 4,700,000 be approved by the House;***
 - ii. the Ministry of Finance is advised to explore the option of supplementary budget allocations to address current financial needs and priorities.***
- Furthermore, it is crucial for the Ministry to ensure that the disbursement of these funds is carried out in a timely manner to facilitate effective implementation of planned programmes and initiatives that require immediate financial support.***

[VOTE 110 07]: POLITICAL PARTIES REGULATION COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Political Parties Regulation Commission [PPRC] was established through a Constitutional provision as enshrined in Sections 34 and 35 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone [Act No. 6 of 1991]. It came into operation in 2005 when the then National Electoral Commission relinquished its oversight responsibility of political parties. The Political Parties Act No. 25 of 2022 gives the Commission the following mandates:

- v regulate, supervise and monitor the conduct and affairs of political parties, so as to ensure compliance with the Constitution and the Act;
- v monitor compliance of political parties with the terms and conditions of their regulations;
- v monitor the accountability of political parties to their membership and to the electorate of Sierra Leone; and
- v promote political pluralism and spirit of constitutionalism among political parties; and
- v mediate conflict or dispute within a political party and between or amongst political parties

In 2025 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of **NLe 10,840,033** to the PPRC,

out of original budget submission of **NLe28, 676,160**. The Committee observed that the Commission received **NLe 10,920,607**. This amount was expended on administrative costs, legal reforms, PPRC's institutional capacity strengthening, interparty mediation, capacity development for political parties, support to regional offices, regional engagement with stakeholders and political education.

The Committee acknowledged the Commission's progress in achieving its FY 2025 key deliverables, particularly in institutional capacity development, support to regional offices, and political parties' capacity building, etc.

The Executive Secretary reported several significant challenges faced by the Commission in fulfilling its mandate. These issues include inadequate funding, unfavorable conditions of service, the impact of ethno-regional politics, uncondusive working environment, and delays in the disbursement of funds to the Commission.

For 2026 FY, the Commission's original budget is **NLe 42,374,728**, but **NLe 6,144,100.00** was allocated by the Ministry of Finance. This allocation, according to the Executive Secretary, would be used to implement key deliverables, including legal reforms, PPRC institutional capacity strengthening, communication, Communication and Technology, inclusion and participation [Gender, Youth and Disability], mediation [peace, cohesion, intra and inter party dialogue] and capacity development for Political Parties. The Executive Secretary disclosed that the decrease would affect the above mentioned deliverables.

The Committee recognized the efforts made by the Commission to ensure a favourable environment for all political parties. This commitment is essential for fostering a genuine democratic framework, where every political party has the opportunity to engage and compete effectively within the political landscape.

The Committee emphasizes the importance of regulating political parties in Sierra Leone and recommends that:

i. this House approves the Commission's allocation for the year 2026 and calls upon the Ministry of Finance to provide additional funds. The purpose

- of this funding is to assist the Commission in resolving its challenges related to office space and staffing needs; and*
- ii. the parliamentary Finance Committee should investigate the conditions of service for the staff members of the Commission. This inquiry aims at evaluating various aspects of employment, such as salary, benefits, and overall job satisfaction, to ensure that the staff are adequately supported.*

[VOTE 118 01]: JUDICIARY OF SIERRA LEONE

The Constitution of Sierra Leone in Chapter VII, Sections 120-145 establishes the Judiciary of Sierra Leone and vests the Judiciary Power of Sierra Leone in the Judiciary, and creates its various structures and specifies its functions, and powers and provides for its autonomy and independence. Its core function is the administration of Justice. To efficiently function in the exercise of its judicial functions, the Constitution guarantees its independence as provided in **Section 120 [3] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No. 6 of 1991**. The institution is headed by the Chief Justice who is supported by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission

In 2025 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of **NLe18,200,000** to the Judiciary, out of an original budget of **NLe60,654,000**. It was observed that **NLe 18,200,000** was expended on general administration, court operations and Support, ECOWAS court conferences, trainings and professional development of staff welfare, international and local travels, adjudication of supreme court matters, adjudication of high and magistrates' courts, support to social, economic and commercial law and justice, adjudication of appeals court and support to the activities of the judicial & legal service commission. The Committee observed that the decrease affected the smooth implementation of key deliverables.

In 2025 FY, the Committee noted that the Judiciary generated revenue totalling **NLe3,697,000** while **NLe1,223,561** was generated in 2024 from various sources, such as court fees, court fines, auctioneer license, liquor license and probates. It was however noted that the revenue was collected by the NRA and transferred directly into

the CRF. The Committee commended Management for such improvement in revenue generation.

For 2026 FY, the Judiciary submitted an original budget of **NLe36,360,000** to the Ministry of Finance, but **NLe30,000,000** was allocated. According to the Vote Controller, the decrease would affect complete delivery of certain deliverables, including oversight, fuel allocation to Judges and staff, special criminal sessions, rehabilitation of courts, including those in the provinces, and capacity building for judges, magistrates and staff.

The Committee also observed that most of the laws relating to fees and fines are obsolete and require review. They include; Court of Appeal Rules, Supreme Court Rules and Magistrates Court Rules

The Committee considered the Judiciary's 2026 allocation of NLe 30,000,000 adequate and therefore recommends its approval. The Committee further recommends that Management fast track the review process of the rules relating to fees and fines, with a view to ensuring the maximization of revenue collection. The Committee advised Management to intensify the sensitisation of the public on revenue collection.

[VOTE 428 01]: NATIONAL INVESTMENTS BOARD

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Investment Board is a government Agency with the mandate to attract, promote and facilitate investments within Sierra Leone as provided for in the National Investments Board Act, 2022.

In 2025 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated **NLe3,42,296** to the Board, out of an original budget submission of **NLe20,300,500**. It was observed that **NLe4,886,935.03** was received from the Ministry of Finance. This amount was reported to have been spent on administrative costs, presidential launch of the Board, capacity building of staff, private sector development, and building and communication. It was however stated that the National Investment Board could not accomplish all

planned deliverables due to budget shortfall. This shortfall affected key deliverables, such as the review of the Company's Act, 2009, establishment of one stop shop and business center, development of National Investment Policy, etc.

In 2025 FY, the Committee further noted that the Board generated revenue totalling **NLe3,995,908.46** from various sources, such as penalty levies/fines on defaulters. In 2024, it was noted that the Board generated **NLe10,522,730.16**. Comparatively, the Board raised more revenue in 2024 than in 2025 FY. This abysmal performance in revenue generation in 2025 was attributed to the decrease in companies' registration.

The Executive Director informed the Committee that late disbursement of funds, capacity building, mobility, inadequate office space are the key challenges confronting the Board.

For 2026 FY, the Board's original budget submission to the Ministry of Finance was **NLe22,207,704**, but **NLe5,365,000** was allocated. The Executive Director disclosed that the decrease would affect the implementation of key deliverables, such support to ICT, general administration, branding and communication, development of the Board's transition framework, etc.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that the Corporate Affairs Commission, Public Private Partnership Unit and Sierra Leone Investments Promotion Agency are appendages to the National Investments Board as provided for in the 2022 National Investments Act. Even though the Corporate Affairs Commission and the Sierra Leone Investments Promotion Agency have their own allocations, yet the National Investments Act, 2022 makes provision for them to be subsumed under the Board.

The Committee recommends that the Board's proposed allocation of NLe5,365,000 for the year 2026 be approved by the House and a supplementary budget allocation be considered.

[VOTE 134 01]: ELECTORAL COMMISSION FOR SIERRA LEONE [ECSL]

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone is the national institution that is constitutionally mandated to conduct all Public Elections and referenda, register all eligible voters, demarcate constituency boundaries and make regulations for the efficient execution of its functions in promoting sustainable democracy and Good Governance.

In 2025 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated **NLe100,500,000** to this Commission, out of an original budget submission of **NLe467,262,000**. The Commission received **NLe73,501,000**. The allocation was mostly expended on local and international travels, administrative and operational costs, upgrading of ICT infrastructure, conduct of paramount chieftaincy elections, electoral laws reforms, etc.

For 2026 FY, the Commission's original budget submitted to the Ministry of Finance was **NLe362, 895,000** with a budget ceiling of **NLe104, 367,000**. It was nevertheless observed that the actual allocation was **NLe99, 985,000**. The Commissioner revealed that if the entire amount is released on time, it would help to upgrade the ICT Infrastructure, reform our electoral laws and regulations, upgrade the voter register, institutional and infrastructural developments, conduct of paramount chiefs' elections, etc. The Committee was however informed that the decrease would affect the implementation of critical activities of the Commission, including conduct of elections, voter registration preparedness, promotes institutional capacity development, staff capacity development and administrative and recurrent expenditure, public awareness and stakeholders' engagement.

The Committee recommends that the Commission's 2026 allocation to the tune of NLe99,985,000 be approved by the House. However the Committee deemed the Commission's 2026 allocation inadequate and thus recommends for additional funding.

VOTE: 110-08 LAW REFORM COMMISSION

The Law Reform Commission is an independent institution established under the Law Reform Commission Act No. 17, 1994 as amended. The statutory mandate of the Commission is to keep under review all the laws of Sierra Leone both statutory and otherwise for the purpose of their reform, development, consolidation and codification. In execution of its general mandate, the Commission prepares and submits to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice recommendations for:

- ✓ Eliminating anomalies and other defects found in the law;
- ✓ Repealing obsolete and outdated enactments;
- ✓ Consolidating enactments;
- ✓ Developing, modernizing and bringing the law in line with current trends

In FY 2025, the Commission's budget submission to the Ministry of Finance was **NLe 3,056,296**, but however allocated **NLe2, 031,600**. The Committee observed that the Commission received **NLe1, 391,504.51** from the Ministry of Finance and **NLe120, 718** as donation from the UNDP. According to the Secretary, these funds were expended on general administration, or support services and human resource management; research, planning and report writing; review and development of legislations, etc.

The Secretary disclosed that **NLe 1,644,688** donation was given by UNDP to undertake the review of the Police Act 1964, the **USD\$53,224** meant to conclude ongoing projects more so the review of the Offenses Against the Person Act 1861; the review of the Law of Evidence; the review of the Courts Act 1965 and the review of the Law on Partnership.

For 2026 FY, the Commission original budget submission to the Ministry of Finance was **NLe4,384,000**, but was allocated **NLe622,200**. Disclosing the discomfort the decrease would cause, the Secretary stated that the slash would affect the overall service delivery of the institution, thereby resulting in low productive outcomes in the reform and update of the laws of Sierra Leone.

In light of the Commission's essential function in independently reviewing the nation's legislation to pinpoint areas that are outdated or unjust, the Committee concluded that the financial allocation for the 2026 FY is insufficient. Consequently, the Committee recommends for the provision of additional funding to empower the Commission fulfills its mandate effectively and undertake necessary modernisations in the country's legal framework.

[VOTE 403 01] MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES

The Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources (MMR) in Sierra Leone plays a crucial role in the management of the country's mineral resources, acting in accordance with the Mines and Minerals Act of 2009. The Ministry is tasked with overseeing national mineral wealth by implementing policies, granting licenses, and collecting revenue that is essential for economic growth. Additionally, the MMR promotes investments in the mining sector, ensures compliance with relevant laws—including those focused on environmental protection—and conducts geological surveys. The overarching goal of the Ministry is to maximize the national benefits derived from the mining industry while maintaining regulatory oversight to promote economic advantages for the nation.

In FY 2025, the Ministry's original budget submission to the Ministry of Finance was **NLe 9,092,356.00**, but however allocated **NLe422, 000**. The Ministry's expenditure matrix revealed that NLe **402,854.47** was expended on administrative and operating cost, promote international and local investments in Sierra Leone's mineral sector, policy research and minerals development directorate, staff welfare, etc. The Committee observed that the decrease affected staff welfare, strengthening institutional capacity, coordination of state and non-state actors, general administration, support to artisanal miners and small scale mining enterprise, etc.

For 2026 FY, the Ministry did not submit any budget to the Ministry of Finance, but was allocated **NLe5, 529,400**.

The Committee considered the Ministry's allocation of NLe5,529,400

adequate and therefore recommends its approval by the House.

[VOTE 125 01] THE LOCAL COURTS

The Local Courts of Sierra Leone are important part of the country's legal system. They are established under the Local Courts Act of 1963 as amended in 2011, and are responsible for resolving disputes at the local level. It plays a vital role in providing access to justice for people in the rural areas and resolving disputes based on traditional customs and practices.

For 2026 FY, Local Court was allocated **NLe400, 000** by the Ministry of Finance. However, Officials of the said institution failed to appear before the Committee, despite several calls to defend their budget. It was noted that the Master and Registrar of Sierra Leone Judiciary could not provide information regarding the Local Courts.

The Committee recommends withholding the Local Courts' 2026 budget until a final decision is made the Local Courts fall under the supervision of the Judiciary or the Ministry of Local Government.

**[VOTE 110-12]: NATIONAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION AGENCY
[NaMED]**

The National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency was established to eradicate phony government implemented projects, a practice that has retrogressed Sierra Leone's development after independence. It is established under the Office of the President with the Secretary to the President as Vote Controller.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency was allocated **NLe1, 371,000** for 2026 FY, but however failed to appear before the Committee. In a communication through WhatsApp, the Vote Controller stated that the Finance and Administration Manager, the sole qualified personnel to finalize the questionnaire, experienced stroke just days prior to the start of the appropriation exercise. Additionally, the Vote Controller indicated that him and the Accountant were

posted to that institution in October 2025, emphasizing their inability to fill the questionnaire.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends that the Agency's 2026 allocation of NLe1, 371,000 be withheld.

[VOTE 110 07]: KOINADUGU DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, Koinadugu District Council is one of the 22 Local Councils in Sierra Leone. In 2025 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of **NLe10, 489,637** to this Council, but however received **NLe2, 772,542.93**. This was expended on general administration, wastes management, school bus services, and capacity building of staff. The Chief Administrator disclosed that the decrease in allocation affected proper waste management and the provision of social amenities.

A cross examination of Council's revenue generation revealed that out of revenue projection of **NLe1,766,000**, Council collected **NLe599,059.10**, from various revenue streams, including market dues, local tax, property rate, business licenses, hall rental fees, mining royalty, etc. This indicates a shortfall of **NLe1, 166,941**. The shortfall, according to the Finance Officer, was attributed to the closure of major revenue sources especially forest products, low compliance with the laws, inadequate logistics for revenue collectors, conflict between the Local and Chiefdom Councils, political interference, poor road network, etc.

For 2026 FY, Council's original budget submission was **NLe10, 489,637**, but was allocated NLe12, 034,704. Council's projected a revenue target of **NLe1, 756,729** for 2026 FY.

The Committee deemed Council's allocation to the tune of NLe10, 489,637 as adequate and therefore recommends its approval. Council officials were advised to enhance their initiatives focused on boosting revenue generation. This is deemed essential for ensuring that they can adequately provide basic social services within their locality, thereby addressing the fundamental

needs of the community. The emphasis is on the necessity of financial improvement to support essential public services.

[VOTE 701 07]: MAKENI CITY COUNCIL

The Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of **NLe 6,851,409** to the Makeni City Council for 2025 FY, out of an original budget of **NLe3, 655,054**. It was noted that Council received **NLe 4,672,062**, slightly above what was allocated by the Ministry of Finance. This was expended on various priority areas, including healthcare, agriculture, social welfare, wastes management, education, etc. The Chief Administrator mentioned that the increase enabled the Committee to implement certain projects within the municipality.

The Committee observed that the Council generated revenue totaling **NLe1,896,977**, out of a projected revenue of **NLe613,986** from various revenue streams, including market dues, local tax, property rate, business licenses, hall rental fees, etc. The reason for exceeding revenue target was attributed to the introduction of the MOPTAX which allows taxpayers to make payments through online platform. The Committee commended the Management team for exceeding revenue targets, indicating that this exceptional achievement in revenue collection would enhance the availability of basic social amenities.

For 2026 FY, the Council was allocated **NLe11, 762,377** by the Ministry of Finance, out of a budget submission of **NLe3, 655,054**.

The revenue target for 2026 FY is **NLe6, 320,000** which is expected to be generated from various revenue streams, such as payment from taxes, licenses, school bus and fines.

The Committee considered Council's allocation to the tune of NLe11, 762,377 as adequate and therefore recommends its approval by the House. The Committee recommended that Management should intensify efforts to

increase their revenue base. This suggestion implies a need for enhanced strategies or initiatives to expand financial resources, which could involve exploring new markets, diversifying revenue streams, or optimizing existing operations to foster revenue growth.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the members of Sub-Appropriation Committee **4** for their collaborative efforts and teamwork during the examination of the budgets related to the MDAs designated to our group. The Committee expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation particularly to Ms. Rita Sesay, Mohamed Francis Buanie, and all others who offered their invaluable technical support to this Committee.

On behalf of this Committee, I move that the **Vote Heads** and **sub heads** of MDAs [with the exception of the Local Courts and National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency [NaMED] that failed to appear before the Committee], the two Local Councils, scrutinized by this Committee as indicated in the table below stand part of the Schedule and that the recommendations contained therein be approved:

MDAs ACCOUNT HEADS [INCLUDING SUB-HEADS] FOR 2026 FY

Vote	Div.	Vote Description	Amount [NLe]
205	01	Ministry of Internal Affairs	4,743,200.00
110	07	Political Parties Regulation Commission	6,144,100
118	01	The Judiciary	30,000,000
428	01	National Investment Board	5,365,000
428	04	Public Private Partnership Unit	1,500,000
428	03	Corporate Affairs Commission	1,000,000
428	03	Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency	2,500,000

403	01	Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources	5,529,400
134	01	Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone	99,985,300
110	09	Law Reform Commission	622,200
403	01	Ministry of Mines and Minerals Resources	5,529,400
110	12	National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency [NaMED]	1,371,000
125	01	Local Courts	400,000
701	10	Koinadugu District Council	12,034,904
701	07	Makeni City Council	4,700,958

THE CHAIRMAN: We thank the Chairman for his eloquent presentation of his report. I wish to recognize Members who want to attract my attention. Who is that? No, if you want to take the Floor it is your right, go ahead. Okay, he is advised already. By the mention of the first sentence; who again? He is advised already.

HON. SHIAKA MUSA SAMA:: Mr Chairman, thank you very much. Mr Chairman, I want to comment on the allocations for the Local Courts. Mr Chairman, I am not an Accountant; I read Science, Physics, Biology and Chemistry, but I have listened to something that creates a lot of doubts in my mind; and this is about common sense Accounting. I heard the Chairman said in the report that nobody claimed responsibility for receiving the money allocated to the Local Courts, which I find very difficult to understand; I am sure the Ministry of Finance paid the money to some Accounts. If so, was the money withdrawn? If it was withdrawn, who withdrew the money? That is common sense accounting.

THE CHAIRMAN: Before you do the Common Sense Accounting, do the Legislative Accounting; you put a proviso, ***provided it was paid into an Account***'.

HON. SHIAKA MUSA SAMA: Mr Chairman, I have not finished, please allow me to land.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, you have already made that statement. Hold on, Honourable Member. You have already made the statement that the Ministry of Finance must have paid the money into an Account. You should have put a proviso, '*provided it was paid*'.

HON. SHIAKA MUSA SAMA: Mr Chairman, let me just land. I did not even put a comma yet, and there is no full stop; I am still making a statement. Let me continue, please. If the Chairman said nobody claimed responsibility, it means somebody was to claim responsibility- that is simple. By saying nobody claimed responsibility; it means they have found out that somebody was to claim responsibility; that is the impression. So I want to know from the Minister whether the money was paid into an Account. I also want to know whether that money was withdrawn, and as by law or by policy, who is responsible for claiming responsibility for the money? Those are the questions we expected the Committee to find out and report on.

Mr Chairman, let me come to the theme of the 2026 Budget which I consider to be very good. Mr Chairman, the 2026 Budget is focused on '*enhancing Domestic Revenue Mobilization for sustained economic stability and improved service delivery*'; my emphasis is on *service delivery*. We were told in the report, including other Committees Reports that there were delayed allocations. You and I know that when there are delay allocations, it actually impacts service delivery negatively.

So Mr Chairman, I have some questions that I want the Minister to take note of: Is the situation regarding Allocations improving at all? Since I came to this Parliament, MDAs have always reported delays in Allocations [*Undertone*]. I have been here since 2007, and I know when the Standing Orders [**SOs**] are abused; is not only about knowing the Standing Orders, you have to respect them. Since I came here MDAs have been always reporting delays in Allocations. My question to Madam Minister is; is the situation improving or deteriorating? We need Data on the situation because it is not just enough for MDAs to be reporting delays in Allocation every year. Having Data on the situation will help us project better as we move forward.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the other question I would also like to ask is what is responsible for the delays, and what can be done to improve on the situation? Mr Chairman, I am sure there is need for cross sectorial engagement among those that are involved in raising revenue and those that are responsible for the delays. There should be effective collaboration among them so that the issue of delayed Allocation can be a thing of the past. Mr Chairman, this is very important, and I hope by the time we come to the 2027 Budget there would have been great improvement.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, if we mobilize revenue, which is one of the specific objectives of this 2026 Budget, and we utilize it well, I believe the problem of delayed Allocations can be addressed. Money does not have brain; it is the person that uses the money that needs to use it correctly. Even if we mobilize all the monies in the world, if we do not use the monies correctly we would not fight poverty, and we would not deliver the required services to our people. I am saying this because I am a Member of the ruling government, and in the next two years we have elections. 2026 should be a year of change; if the MDAs come before us as Parliamentary Committees, we must thoroughly scrutinize them before we approve their Budget. We have the moral responsibility to ensure that we monitor them; to ensure that they do the right things for the people of Sierra Leone. When that happens, it will be good for our people and our government.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I said yesterday that if MDAs are saying the money is not enough, but what are they doing with the small money that they get? Indeed. if the monies allocated for them to deliver services are not enough, I am sure it would disturb their performance, but my question is, the little that they are having, what are they doing with it? So Mr Chairman, I am appealing to all Committees for us to make 2026 a year of change, so that we can help the President to deliver on his promises. It is not just enough to say I am a Member of this Committee, but what are you doing to create positive impact in those Committees? We have to monitor those MDAs in a manner that they would respect us. We have to be responsible in dealing with them, we have to ask them the right questions, and we have to avoid conflict of interest. If we

embark on things that make the MDAs not to respect us, then all our efforts will be a waste of time and resources.

Mr Chairman, I am always guided by principles, okay? So I will stop here so far, and I want to thank the Minister and all the Committee Heads for their efforts. Lastly, I want to appeal to the Leadership of this Parliament to ensure that we make 2026 a year of change so that by 2028 we can return the SLPP government to State House, thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Honourable Member for his well-organized presentation. I know he is an organized man and he knows his organizational abilities. So I give the Floor to Honourable Daniel B. Koroma.

HON. DANIEL BRIMA KOROMA: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I just have few comments for the Political Parties Registration Commission [PPRC]; the second recommendation on Page 10. Mr Chairman, I think Recommendation [2] is the responsibility of the Labour Committee to look into that issue and report to this House. And for the National Investment Board, Mr Chairman, I want us to take this issue very seriously because we have done this mistake so many times as Members of Parliament. Most of those Institutions like SLIPPA, PPP and Corporate Affairs have their own Acts of Parliament as well. I was part of this Parliament anyway, but I wonder how come we reached at this decision which is forcing us now to do the unthinkable. I wonder how we can even go about it because I am not comfortable in using an Act of Parliament to undo another Act of Parliament. Maybe it is an oversight or whatsoever, but I am not too comfortable with that. We had the same challenge with EPA, NPAA and the newly created Ministry of Environment. There was no Ministry of Environment in the history of this country, but now that we have the Ministry of Environment, that Ministry is now in charge of the responsibility to oversee all environmental affairs, whiles at the same time we have EPA in existence with similar mandate. While we were amending the EPA Act, NPAA came in also because they seem to have the same responsibilities. Then the question becomes, who takes orders from whom, and who does what?

So Mr Chairman, which is why we really need to constitute a special Committee to discuss this issue because by removing those Vote Heads we might be creating other problems. I know we have the powers under the relevant **S.O** to remove the Vote Heads but I think we need to engage them as well because of its technicality and the possibility of affecting their operations. So I am suggesting that we have a second look at it.

Finally Mr Chairman, for the Local Courts, I agree with you on your proposed proviso that *'provided the monies were paid'*. Madam Minister needs to give us that answer regarding whether the monies were paid as Vote Head to the Local Courts, especially for 2025 Financial Year, and to whom? We can then pick up from those responses. What the Chairman allegedly said is very worrisome because Parliament is an accountability institution. If nobody claimed responsibility for the disbursement as stated by the Chairman, then how can he check them? So maybe that was the reason the Committee recommended for the monies to be withheld. If we cannot ascertain to whom the 2025 FY money was paid, then I would recommend that 2026 be withheld until we know to whom it was paid, if at all it was paid in the first place. Madam Minister should be at the position to answer those two questions; was the money paid? If paid, to whom it was paid? From the responses we get, we can know what next to do.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Honourable Member, and I think sensitive issues came up, particularly that which has to do with Local Courts and the Sierra Leone National Investment Board [NIB]. I think with regards the National Investment Board, what has happened since the passage of that Legislation is that they have consolidated all of these Agencies in one Office; now they are operating in a single Office with the Head of the NIB superintending the operations of the entire subsidiary Agencies. Their Office is at Dwazack. So like you said, I think we should consider the recommendation in line with the submission that the Minister will make to us. That will give us comfort as to whether we will take the allocated amount off the Appropriation Bill, or we consider a consolidation of the total amount for the Sub Agencies under the NIB. As for the Local

Court, we still rely on the proviso until the Minister confirms whether the money was paid and to whom it was paid, I agree.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, Honourable PC.

HON. PC HAJA MEAMA KAJUE: Mr Chairman, I thank the Committee very much for their thorough scrutiny of the MDAs and the presentation to the House. We as Paramount Chiefs still have a very big challenge with the Local Courts. So it will be good for the Minister to tell this House where those monies were paid. Local Courts are being run in our Court Barrays, so if the courts are going to be transferred to the Judiciary, we would like the Judiciary to take proper care of them, build their own Courthouses and leave our Barray for us to do our activities. The Local Court is giving us a lot of challenges; we no longer perform the roles we used to play in the Local Courts. Formally, we were the ones that recommend Court Chairmen, who then go through the Interview conducted by the Ministry of Local Government, and then they send them to us in our Chiefdoms. Sending the Local Courts now to the Judiciary is going to be a different arrangement because people will be taken from different backgrounds and brought to communities where they have no understanding about. For someone to be an effective Local Court Chairman, that person has to be familiar with the people, customs and traditions. But if the Local Court is now going to be sent under the Judiciary, where they just take people as Court Chairman and send them to us, I think we have to look into that very well. So we are yet to hear from the Ministry of Local Government as to where the Local Court are going to be housed finally, I thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Honourable PC for her firsthand experience sharing about how the Local Courts operate in the domain of the Paramount Chiefs. And I am sure the Legislation intends to rule that the Local Court is not just under the Ministry, but under the Paramount Chiefs [PC] as well. So the Parliament Chiefs will now superintend the operations of the Local Courts, and as provided for in the Local Government and the Chieftaincy Act of 2009 and other relevant Legislations, the PCs

will now report the operations and performance of the Local Courts to the Ministry for onward scaling to the requisite authorities. I see no one is attracting my attention; Madam Minister...

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Chairman, if I could add my voice, I want to say a few words to Madam Minister. Madam Minister, please note the recommendations from this Report; make sure their Budget is withheld, until they come back to Parliament, please do not give them anything. That is the position and that is the recommendation of the Committee. And for all the MDAs that did not appear before the Committees, make sure the Chairmen of the respective Committees recommend exactly what Group 4 has recommended for its MDAs. The MDAs should treat this Parliament with seriousness; we are not begging them to come because these are State monies. These are monies approved by this Parliament and they should account for these monies. If Permanent Secretaries of MDAs do not want to account for the monies they collected, they should resign. The fact that we are approving these monies, and the Ministry of Finance is disbursing the monies to them, they should come and account to us as a people. So I want to doff my hat to you, and I want to call on all Committee Chairmen to please recommend the withholding of Allocations of MDAs that did not attend to the Committees' summon, or did not properly account for their previous Allocations.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the SLIEPA Act was repealed and replaced with the National Investment Board [NIB] Act, and that is why today we have SLIEPA as a Department under NIB. We created the NIB because we wanted to have a One-Stop Investment Center, and His Excellency the President is the Chair of the Board, thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Leader and I want to re-echo the point that the proposal in the form of recommendation made by the Committee is still a proposal before the House. When once the House takes a decision, I would implore the Clerk of Parliament to communicate that decision as a resolution to the Ministry of Finance as to which MDAs Parliament has approved, and which MDAs' Budgets the House has agreed

to withhold until they go through the exercise as prescribed in the Standing Orders. So for now, what we have before us from the Committee still stands as a proposal until the House agrees.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Chairman, the Deputy Leader is going out now, but I want us to first of all as a Parliament ask the Committee Chairmen to present a list of MDAs who did not make themselves available to your Leadership and to the Leadership to various political parties, and maybe summon them again to know why they were not here. It will be odd for us to name some MDAs out here and later we see their Votes being approved. So it is better we list them, because this problem is not just limited to Group 4; almost all other Groups faced similar issue.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this morning, I am particularly interested in the Allocation to the Judiciary. Mr Chairman, I have said this more than three times that the Allocation to the Judiciary as an Arm of Government is too small; **Le18Bln**. You cannot compare that to what is given to some personal offices under the Budget. I am not talking about what was approved; I am talking about what was allocated.

Mr Chairman, if you move around the country today, you would notice the deplorable state of some of our Courts. I always take my District Court in Kambia as a case study, where during the rainy season the Court hardly sit, and as a result, this always leads to delay in justice. Madam Minister, the Judiciary is not like a Department; it is an arm of government, for God's sake! And we depend on the Judiciary whenever issues like human rights abuses and other offences are committed. We cannot continue muzzling the judiciary by giving them pittance. I said this again yesterday that if we are sure we do not have enough money, let us state it from the onset. This has been the trend for almost the last three years, Madam Minister; we allocate huge amount, but what is normally given is sometimes not even up to **50%**. This is not good for the Judiciary, and now we are talking about the Judiciary housing the Local Courts which is going to add more burdens on the Judiciary. Now we see why cases are delayed, now we see why Judges are finding it difficult to go to certain areas; and delay in Justice is also a

situational problem in our country. We must not shy away from this; delay in Justice was one of the major reasons that led to our Civil War; which means we must give more preeminence to the Judiciary; and we must give more resources to the Judiciary. The land matters in the Western Area alone are so huge to handle by the Judiciary, talk less of rape, drugs and other cases. Despite all of that, what we give to the Judiciary is not commensurate to its operations.

Mr Chairman, unlike other institutions under this Report, my attention is more on the Judiciary. If we want a Judiciary that works for us, if we want a Judiciary we can depend on as a people, I think we must do better with the allocation of the Judiciary. The fact that they do not come to the Office of the Minister of Finance to beg for their

Allocation does not mean they do not have needs. I have always said there are certain Institutions we need to build to be independent because whether you are in office today or tomorrow, you need a functional institution. The Judiciary is therefore one of such Institutions, and we need to build it up. If you compare our Judiciary to other Sub Regional countries around us, you would see the abysmal failure in our judicial system; this can be largely blamed on the resources we allocate to our Judiciary.

Mr Chairman, I remember when I was Chairman of Human Rights, we went to the South and we discovered that there were matters that were meant to be allocated to Judges, and just for the lack of Photocopiers, they had to send the files to Freetown to photocopy and send them back; this is delaying our matters. People are in prison just because they need Judges to form a Circuit to go around the country. And when such situations occur, they will tell you that there is not enough money even for per diem and fuel for the Judges; when other people are waiting in the prison for Justice. It could be you tomorrow, it could be anyone of us; whiles you might be waiting for a speedy trial, they tell you no, there is no resources **S.O 2** *'Fuel nor dae na de generator, or de motor car for go with de Judges dem.'*

Mr Chairman Honourable Members, if you go to the Prisons today, we have cases where prisoners cannot be moved because the prison vehicles do not have fuel. The whole of

Port Loko have only one prison vehicle, and that vehicle is supposed to take prisoners from Port Loko to Lunsar, to Lungi and to Mashaika Courts. There are certain times when the one vehicle is heading for Lunsar the Prison Officers have to board Okadas for the other prisoners to come to Masiaka- see the risk attached to that. Mr Chairman, I think I will stop here for today, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Honourable Member, listening to you, I think you have made a salient contribution. I believe the Judiciary, like every other MDA presents its Budget to the Ministry of Finance as provided for in Section **56** and Section **32**. When the Budget-Call Circulars are sent, ceilings are set for them, and I believe the Judiciary deems the amount allocated to them appropriate. For the other issue that has to do with vehicle, they are interrelated; when it has to do with vehicles, it is not the Judiciary, but the Correctional Authority. And when it has to do with the functioning of the Court, it is the Judiciary. But these are problems that have been with us for very long time, and I am sure it will take more than one Chief Justice or one transition for us to fix it because the structure of our Budget is the major problem; our Budget is less than, or not more than a Billion. Michaela Tetta alone has spent in the last five years at Arsenal **1 Bln Pounds**, and Chelsea has spent **2 Bln Pounds** in the last five years. So all of those monies are higher than the amount we provided for the Judiciary in our Budget; so it means we are operating on a very tight envelope. We have an envelope that has to attend to Education, an envelope that has to attend to Emergencies, we have an envelope that has to attend to Foreign Affairs, we have an envelope that has to attend to Sports, and we have an envelope that has to attend to all of these issues. And if for any reason Leone Star has a match and they are delayed in Freetown to travel to the destination to prepare ahead for that match, it would be catastrophic; hell will broke lose. So these are the kinds of situations we have, and that is why our development is snail-paced.

If we agree collectively to redefine our Budget and do a concentrated Budget for period, say for example, this year we are going to dedicate **70%** of our Budget to build the schools, so we know that all what other Agencies have is Administrative Budget to run

the Ministry and to receive complaint. And next year, we dedicate **70%** to expansion of University Infrastructure. That is the only way we can address our problem, otherwise, by what we have now, it is going to be difficult and we would not accept it. It is not a political issue; it is a governance issue that is bothered by the fact that the way the world is, we cannot stand completely by ourselves. The Revenue we generate cannot meet all the attendant challenges that come every day in the governance architecture. So I encourage the Ministry of Finance to take note and to continue to engage these MDAs and see how you can continue to improve on the Budget that they present to you. I know that for the Appropriation Bill to be presented to Parliament, you must have gone through the Budget Call Circular, they may have presented their Budget to you, and you may have sat with them to agree on the amount. So that is just my concern. Honourable Kellie, you have the Floor.

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, I just want to add to what the penultimate speaker said, and I am happy that my learned colleague, the Honourable Gevao is here.

Mr Chairman, I think in addition to all the problems enumerated, one big bottleneck that the Court system is facing is the fact that they are not self-accounting. We have to separate the Court system in terms of allocation of resources. I simply mean that the Budget of the Court system should be separated from that of the Ministry of Justice because that is where the difficulty is. If the Chief Justice wants to embark on anything within the Court system, he has to refer first to the Attorney General's Office and it takes time for these resources to be approved etc. If you go to some Judges Offices, they do not even have Air Conditions [ACs], all the furniture is broken, etc. and when you ask them about the reason for such a system, they will tell you that they have not received the approval yet from the Ministry of Justice.

So Mr Chairman, I think that is one way to resolve the problem within the Court system. I am not talking about the Judiciary as a whole; that is a completely separate topic. But within the Court system, it is prudent for them to have their own Budget and for them

to be self-accounting. There are other organizations that are not self-accounting and when organization and MDA have to rely on another MDA to run their affairs, then it can be very challenging.

Mr Chairman that is why I am saying that one of the ways we can ameliorate the problems within the Court system is by allowing the courts to have their own allocations and be self-accounting. At the moment, if the Chief Justice requires any expenditure, they have to first go to the Attorney General's Office, and you can imagine the delay involved in going through such processes. So Mr Chairman that is one thing we have to consider and recommend to the government, and my learned friends, Honourable Gevao is very aware of this. Let the Court system be self-accounting, after all at the end of the day, you have the Audit Service that will audit their accounts.

So Mr Chairman, I just wanted to expand on what my Leader has said and to bring it to your notice that one of the difficulties of the Court system is the fact that they do not have control over their own resources; they have to revert to the Attorney General's Office every time they need something to spend, and that is not good. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Sorry Honourable Williams S Lamin, I would just take Honourable Gevao for obvious reasons; first, he has been mentioned, and second, the issue relates to the Judiciary, an institution that he has served for a very long time. And finally, I am going to know the pronouncement and I am going to write the recommendation that he should be considered for the next set of appointment as Supreme Court Judges.

HON. HINDOLO MOIWO GEVAO: Grateful, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, the financial situation of the Judiciary as an Arm of Government is nothing to write home about. Mr Chairman, I am happy that the Minister is paying rapt attention as we canvass some of their problems.

Mr Chairman, I can say for fact that the entire Judiciary does not have up to five working vehicles. Mr Chairman, yesterday I was in the Office of a Supreme Court Judge and I heard him saying that he was given an old vehicle, and after he spent about **NLe80, 000** to repair it, they took it away from him and replaced it with a vehicle of a late Judge, which he said was not fit for purpose. When I asked him about the whereabouts of the vehicle, he said he had packed it in Kenema.

Mr Chairman, it would surprises you to know that there are Appeal Court Judges and Supreme Court Judges in this country that do not have Official vehicles.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, as you speak about the issue of lack of Official vehicles, I would encourage you to mention my name, the Speaker and the Leaders of this House.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Grateful, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, when we see Ministers and Deputy Ministers driving brand new vehicles, whiles the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Leaders of Government Business in this House do not have those opportunities and facilities, it begs a question. Mr Chairman, we have to also start paying heed....

THE CHAIRMAN: Three days ago I saw the Leader of the Opposition struggling with his 'TOKUMBOR'. I was in mine but I could not stop because if I had stopped, it might have been catastrophic. It would have been the Leader of the Opposition struggling with his 'TOKUMBOR', and joined by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, so I just passed him like I never knew him *[laughter]*.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Chairman, I once listened to the Deputy Leader who said Members of Parliament ought to be treated with utmost respect, and be given opportunities and facilities as much as Ministers do. Mr Chairman, the entirety of what the Sierra Leonean populace put together and give to the President is what he distributes to his Ministers. Mr Chairman, the government and we as Parliamentarians that have the power to the purse have to pay some attention to ourselves. Mr Chairman,

there is no reason why you should not be driving a brand new vehicle. Mr Chairman, in Liberia for example, the MPs have a six year tenure, and every three years they give them a vehicle allowance of **\$45,000** each. Mr Chairman, we have to start addressing this issue [*Undertone*] yes.

Mr Chairman, as Committee Chairman of Sports then, I went to watch Leon Star game at the Stadium in Liberia and I identified myself as a Member of Parliament. A fellow who was seated by me asked me, 'we understand that your salaries are not good, right?', I responded, no, and he said here in Liberia, they pay us **\$5000 USD** plus **\$3,000** in Liberty. All put together, they get **\$8,000** salary a month, including other facilities like the **\$45,000** vehicle allowance every three years.

Mr Chairman, for us here, if our Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Leaders are provided with just the facilities of certain Ministers, we the ordinary Members would be happy because our Leadership carries our respect. Mr Chairman, as I said, we have to pay some attention to the fact that Parliament and the Judiciary are also Arms of Government. Mr Chairman, we have three Arms of Government; the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive. Paying all the attention to only the Executive is like paying all the attention to Football and allowing the other Sporting disciplines to suffer- that is what is happening with our Budget.

Mr Chairman, I want to make a national plea that when a representative is voted in office, let the respectability of that representative be reflective of the general population. If you see a Member of Parliament boarding a '*Kekeh*' or '*Okada*', how would you respect that Member of Parliament?

Mr Chairman, I was telling somebody today that maybe the MDAs are not treating us seriously because of our condition. Despite the request for MDAs to be present for such hearings, if you look at those present in Parliament today, they are less than **2%**. This is a clear manifestation of how they look at us. If those MDAs were seeing us in better financial condition, they would not have been treating us with this type of levity. For that reason, I am looking forward to the Leadership to take very serious action against

all defaulting MDAs for failure to come to Parliament when called upon. Mr Chairman, all what we do here is rooted in the Constitution. Failure by anyone to pay heed to this particular activity is tantamount to violating the Constitution. It behooves every MDA to come to Parliament anytime we are passing the Budget. Failure to comply is like you saying we should not do our oversight, and we should not exercise our auditing powers on MDAs.

Mr Chairman, I have no doubt that as you sit in that Chair you have what it takes to put pen to paper to ensure that what is happening today does not repeat itself next year. Imagine we say because of the disrespect manifested by these MDAs we are not going to approve this Budget, where is the government going to get monies to run the 2026 Administration? The MDAs therefore should treat us seriously because the entire governance system revolves on what we are doing here today. We have the powers to say we are not approving this Budget, and if we do that, the President cannot go into the consolidated fund and take a dime to run the nation.

So if you know that the entire administration of the nation rests on what Parliament does, you have to take us serious. We have the powers to force every Ministry, Department and Agency to take this Arm of Government serious. We have the powers to send them to the Criminal Investigations Department [CID] and be detained there for contempt of Parliament.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, when someone fails to honour a Court invitation, the Magistrate or Judge may issues a Bench Warrant for the person to be arrested and brought before the court. As Parliament, we have all of those powers, and until we start using those punitive measures before the MDAs can treat us with the seriousness we deserve. These people seem not to take their jobs seriously, because not coming to Parliament when the National Budget is being debated is negligence on their Jobs

Mr Chairman, having said that, I still want to continue to make a passionate plea for the Judiciary to be provided with Official vehicles. When the Chief Justice decided to take the Appeals Court to Makeni, I watched with rapt attention and I discovered that none

of them drove in Government Vehicle; all the Judges who went to Makeni drove in their private vehicles. The Supreme Court Judge, Justice Bangura drove a Range Rover Vehicle that even gave him an overheating problem along the road.

Mr Chairman, I want to crave the indulgence of the Minister as they go through the finalization of this Budget to ensure that special arrangement be made for the Judiciary to have at least **10** to **20** brand new vehicles. Mr Chairman, I have the conviction that we have the resources to make that happen. If those who implement Justice are prevented from mobility, how do we expect them to do their job? From the Supreme Court Judges, to the Magistrate, none of them are mobile, and I am sure even the general public would want to see those Court Officials in a very dignified appearance. Mr Chairman, for one to be a Supreme Court Judge, one ought to have practiced law for at least 20 years, and I am 22 years...

THE CHAIRMAN: And the Honourable Aaron Aruna Koroma has also endorsed that we present your name for nomination as a Supreme Court Judge.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Chairman, if the President can harken that this House submits my name as a Supreme Court Judge, that will be something that this nation will be very proud of.

THE CHAIRMAN: So for Honourable Kellie and Honourable Sheriedan, you should know that the Honourable Gevao has acceded to the confidence of this House that we present his name for nomination as Supreme Court Judge.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: That will be an honour to this House that one of your kind, by your popular acclamation, by your submission, once nominated to be a Supreme Court judge, not only because of the fact that he is a Member of Parliament, but because you are ceased of the fact that he is qualified and he would deliver his function in style.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Chairman, do I consider this as a Vote of Thanks for the appointment?

THE CHAIRMAN: It is a Vote of Thanks, more or less, so that we collectively send the petition to the Chief Justice and nominate the Honourable Hindolo Moiwo Gevao.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Chairman, my younger brother, the Leader of the Opposition would be very proud to see me a Supreme Court judge.

Mr Chairman, again to my plea, it is good that we dignify the Offices of the Supreme Court Judges, the Appeal Court judges and the High Court judges. Mr Chairman, one day I will beseech this House; the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Leadership to just take a center stage on that Arm of Government, and you would appreciate the fact that just as we are suffering here, so are they suffering.

Mr Chairman, for you to take a Supreme Court judge and peg his salary to something less than **\$2,500** is nothing to write home about. I always tell people that there were times in this country when my salary was **\$650** as a Member of Parliament, and there was serious devaluation in this country. When I took that salary, I used to visit Kailahun twice a month. I would spend at least **\$250** on transportation alone for one trip. So visiting twice a month would cost me **\$500**, and how do you expect such a Member of Parliament with a family to survive? So we have to reconsider the salary scale of Members of Parliament.

THE CHAIRMAN: Not just a family, but a man with seven children.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Chairman, it is nine.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is nine children now, right?

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: A Member of Parliament with nine children then being paid **\$650**; how do you expect him to take care of his children? Mr Chairman, when we say these things at times we laugh about them, but we are really suffering as people's representative. Sometimes we are apprehensive as to what will the public say about us?

Mr Chairman, I always tell people that the least transportation in Ghana from one point to another is **\$1** or **\$2**, and yet the people can afford to pay because Ghanians are well paid. We have to look at our taxing formula because our sources of income in Sierra Leone predominantly come from the taxes we pay, and from external funding. With the proper management of those resources, people in this country ought to be taken care of. Mr Chairman, it is not good for an Ex-Member of Parliament to not even have a place or an abode to call his or her own.

Mr Chairman, as I speak, I will say for sure that **60%** of Members of this Parliament do not have standard personal vehicles; the best vehicles we go for are the Rav-**4** or Sport Edition vehicles that they sell for **\$12,000**. You only need to drive such vehicles for six months and they begin to give you Gearbox problem, only for you to start looking for another vehicle again. I pray that the President and all other functionaries that make state institutions function listen to me as I plead with them today.

Mr Chairman, the reason why they said Parliament should sit on Tuesdays and Thursdays is because of this: I am expected to be in Kailahun on Thursday, leave Kailahun on Monday for Freetown and sit in Parliament on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and travel again on that same Thursday for Kailahun. How do you expect me to go to Kailahun every Thursday, as the Constitution demands, when I do not have a vehicle and enough money to buy fuel? Sometimes they blame Members of Parliament for not going to their Constituencies; how do we go to our Constituents as required when we do not have the resources?

So as a nation, if we really want to take this country from where we are to another level, let us first pay heed to our own personal conditions. When you are comfortable as a Deputy Speaker, you would be motivated enough to do the job of a Deputy Speaker. When you are in the capacity to take care of your family as much as you love to take care of them, you would be comfortable and you would be able to concentrate on your job as a Deputy Speaker. But if you come on a Monday and you start thinking about your weekly responsibilities, and perhaps where you are going to get resources to take

care of your family, you would certainly not concentrate on your job- and that is what all of us are faced with. Mr Chairman, sometimes we get sick not because ailment comes, but because of the financial pressures that we encounter as Members of Parliament.

On that note Mr Chairman, as I started with a plea for the Judiciary, and as a Judiciary creature, I would love to see this Budget create a special provision for Vehicle facilities for Members of the Judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court and High Court Judges. Once more, I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to lend my voice to this specific issue.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Unfortunately, I will not take any other speaker, but I want to thank the Honourable Member; the point is well stated, and I am sure it is clear enough for all to hear that we have to improve on our livelihood. We have to make sure that the people we put in positions of trust carry their responsibilities and sit in situations where they are comfortable enough to make good decisions; if their minds are not clear, their decisions will be clouded. That is why our judgments are always questioned; not because we do not want to work, but because we do not have the ancillary support to make our work very efficient. If you go to the Constitution, I think Section 124 [2&3]; you would see how powerful these two entities [*the Judiciary and the Legislature*] are. The Judiciary is the only organ that has the singular power to declare both Act of the Executive and the Legislature unconstitutional by way of judicial review. So if they have such powers, you have to give them the amenities that befit those powers. If you see Supreme Court Judges who hold the highest and the most senior Courts in the Justice system are struggling for vehicles, talk less of Appeal Court and High Court Judges. And mind you, these are well respected positions in other countries. In fact, in advanced countries, you realize that decisions taken by the Executive are only valid after they have received the Seal of the Supreme Court, because people will challenge those decisions up to the Supreme Court level. When once the Supreme Court says yes on any matter, then everybody believes that it is yes. But if the people that are going to say yes do not have

what it takes to say yes, I am sure everybody will doubt their judgment. That is why everyday people say oh, 'the Judiciary is this, the Judiciary is that', but nobody is concerned about the predicament that Judges go through. You see, to write Judgment alone, you need a sound mind because you are going to consult a lot of Legislations; you are going to look outside your jurisdiction before you make a ruling, because that ruling become president in the justice system, and somebody is going to use it as a Case Law. So it is important that we treat them with seriousness. The way we treat and respect Ministers [*Undertone*] no, this is no bad feeling for Ministers, but it is also equally important that we treat and respect Members of the Judiciary as well as Leaders of Parliament just like the way we treat and respect Ministers. [*Undertone*] no, Leaders of Parliament first; you see in the world, even when you go to heaven there are number of Angels, but the Muslims know that no Angel is more powerful than Angel Gibril [*the Christians call him Angel Gabriel*]; there are other Angels but Gibril is ahead of them. At every level in life there is a cadre, and so we must respect that cadre. If we do not respect the first cadre, people will not respect the second cadre. That is why they treat us as one; they put us in one kettle. And I am going to make a pronouncement today, and that pronouncement would stand, and I am sure I would run that pronouncement after consultation with my boss, the Speaker. From today onwards [*Undertone*] No, maybe Members would move it as a Motion, but I am going to make a pronouncement, and that pronouncement must stand:

From today onwards, whether you are Clerks at the Table, or you are a Staff of this Parliament, if you are a lady, if you are not wearing skirt, do not enter this Chamber; do not come to this Chamber with trousers, do not come to this Chamber with Mini Skirt. It is disrespectful, it is desecration for this Chamber, do not do it. So if you know you are working in this Parliament and you are a Clerk at the Table, please do not come to this Chamber with trousers or Mini Skirt. If we do not respect our Institution, how will the people treat our Institution?

So Madam Minister, I am sure we have struggled with the issue of vehicles for Leaders of Parliament, and I am sure we would take the Budget up until tomorrow. If we do not

have a definitive answer about the vehicles for Leadership of Parliament, we are going to stop the process tomorrow and we continue next year. We have struggled with the vehicle situation for Leaders of Parliament for 18 months, and I am sure you are aware that we have gone to several places I would not mention. If we do not have a definitive answer by tomorrow, we would take the Report of the Committees and we would stop and then we proceed on vacation, then we come next year. So the State will rely on the warrant of the President until otherwise because you are not treating the issue seriously. We have come from the point of demanding for all Leaders, to negotiating for some. Even the few that we have negotiated and said okay, give us this amount as an incentive to show that you have a commitment, you cannot commit to it. You imagine the Speaker of Parliament; a whole Speaker does not have a vehicle. He wanted to go to Liberia and he had to rent a vehicle for himself and his delegation of Leaders. He rented vehicles out to Leasing Companies to go to Liberia, just to build the impression and image of Sierra Leone. Had he gone with that of his TOKUMBOH, others would have just looked and asked '*is he the Speaker, or he is representing the Speaker?*' That is not fair.

So that is a pronouncement I have made, and I see the Chief Whip wants to add few words and then we take the Minister.

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

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: Mr Chairman, sorry, please before you call on Madam Minister. Mr Chairman, I know you have already ruled on the Dress Code for our workers, but there are some Dress Codes that go with trousers for ladies which are Corporate Suits and can be considered as Official and are accepted worldwide. So I do not know, but perhaps that needs clarification.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, you see, even in the Judiciary, they have leaned back to certain dress codes, but they do not change certain conditions.

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Yes, female Lawyers can have their Corporate Dress; the only thing that is not tolerated is the dresses that actually display the upper part of their body, but if every other part is covered, then you are fine. Mr Chairman, the thing about the Corporate Dress is that it shows the anatomy...

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, I would amend the pronouncement. If the trouser is a Corporate Dress, fine, but if it is not, do not bring it inside the Chamber. This applies to even strangers; if your trousers are not a corporate suited trouser do not bring them in the Chamber. So at least I have bent backwards, that is very well.

Before I take the Minister, let me recognize the following personalities that are with us in the Chamber:

Mr Gerald Ganda, Deputy Commissioner General, NRA; Mr Philip M. Kargbo, Senior Director MRP, NRA; Miss Olaymatu Jalloh, the former Miss AYV Miss University winner and National Women's Leader of the SLPP, Turkey Chapter; Mr Francis M. Conteh, Senior Budget Officer, MOF. I did not see Jacob. I also want to recognize Rachel Ejatu Zubairu, Senior Budget Officer, MOF; Joan Bridget Laval, Budget Officer, MOF; Mr Patrick Kama, Budget Officer, MOF; Magbindy Tigbasi, Senior Budget Officer, MOF; Aminata Jimmy, Deputy Secretary, MOF; Okay, I have seen Jacob- Jacob T Sessi, Deputy Director of Budget, MOF, and the Director of Budget, Mr Tasima Jah, you are all welcome to the House. Madam Minister, go ahead.

MINISTER OF FINANCE: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let me first take this opportunity to thank the House for the much spirited discussions that have gone on this morning. I want to especially thank the Committee Number Four [4] for their deliberations and their recommendations provided here in this Report. Let me commend your leadership on some of the explanations that you have already provided on some of the issues that have been raised thus far. With that, I would start with the issue of the vehicle.

Mr Chairman, I want to assure this House that the procurement of vehicles for the Leadership of this House is in process; it has been approved at the Ministry of Finance and is now left with the Ministry of Transportation. I think they are working on it so that they can award the contract. So, Mr Chairman, I want to assure you of that....

THE CHAIRMAN: So what we would do is that on Friday, before we start the hearing we would meet the Leadership of Parliament and the Leadership of the Ministry of Finance. We would meet, discuss and look at the conditions; whether their conditions are tenable because the assurance we had was that the issue will be addressed before Christmas. So we would meet tomorrow morning; the Leadership of the Ministry of Finance and the Leadership of Parliament. The Minister and the Financial Secretary have to be in attendance.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE [*Madam KADIATU ALLIE*]: This is noted, Mr Chairman, thank you. With that, I would move to some of the issues raised with the Local Government. I think the issue was around the Local Courts and their alignment to either the Judiciary or the Local Government. Currently, as we have it in the Budget for 2025, they were aligned under the Ministry of Local Government. And this year, for 2025, an allocation of **NLe 401,500** was made. I agree with the Chairman of the Committee Group Four [4] who presented in the Report that none of those amounts were disbursed due to ownership or leadership at that level.

The issue of NIB was also brought before this noble House through an Act that was repealed, I think, SLIEPA, PPP, Corporate Affairs; those are all Commissions that now report under the NIB and they are just sub components within the NIB structure. The Director General [DG] is the Vote Controller, with a Board that is chaired by no other person than His Excellency, the President. The Budget presented so far is for recording and monitoring of the activities of these Divisions under the NIB. So this could be combined as one Vote- that is noted.

As you can see under the one Vote; which means that the Budget Head is **428** and with the various divisions or decision points indicated as **010234**. On the Judiciary, we do

have a top level Budget for the Judiciary as a whole, and the Judiciary has access directly to those funds, and they do their self-accounting in terms of how those resources are utilized.

However, it is truly not exact, and we acknowledge that for the Judiciary to function they do need resources as stated. Which is why this year's Budget is targeted towards improving Internal Revenue Generation Mobilization. We have already done a lot of things, ranging from automation to make sure that leakages are blocked, we have introduced Tax Handles to make sure that collection is improved in terms of the Excise Tax, we have done the Stamp Taxation, we have done few and it is working and the like, and we have done with the Tele Codes, we have introduced tracking so that we can assess appropriate taxation. So with these efforts we would continue into the New year, and in addition to that we are working to implement the Single Window for enforcing the Import size to make sure that those revenues are accurately accounted for and make it into the Single Treasury Account.

So, as we improve on our domestic revenue, that would then allow us to bring in much needed revenue to pay special attention to these very important Arms of Government, which I agree that the Judiciary is an important branch of government. So that is noted. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Opposition did raise the issue of delays and inadequate allocation. As a Ministry, we do acknowledge the fact, and we would strive to improve on Budget credibility, especially going into **2026** because this is one of our objectives.

Mr Chairman, I just want to bring to the attention of this House that while we have in most instances under the **rujrics** have draft the allocation, but in some instances, well, we have to give credit where credit is due; I want to bring to your attention the Report on the Political Parties Regulation Commission, and it reads that, *'in **2025** Fiscal year, the Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of **NLe10, 840,000** [Ten Million Eight Hundred and Forty Thousand]. And today, the Commission has received **NLe10, 920,000** [Ten Million Nine Hundred and Twenty Thousand], and this exceeds what was*

allocated; this is just one instance. I would go on again and highlight what we had budgeted and executed for NIB. For NIB, we had allocated **NLe3.4 Mln**, but today we have paid **NLe4.8 Mln**. I am not saying all of this as an excuse, but I just wanted to bring it to the attention of this House that again, we as a Ministry our intention is to pay all allocations as approved by this House as indicated in the Budget, and we would continue to do that as we go on.

I want to also include that the Makeni City Council for 2025 has received **NLe4.6Mln**, even though their Budget Allocation was **NLe3.6Mln**; over a million more than allocated, so this is also noted, but again, I want to make sure that we are all aligned that there are a lot of instances where we at the Ministry of Finance have paid out more than allocated in some Institutions in order to ensure that the work of people get done.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the other point I want to emphasize is the comments on NaMED; that we should not pay out any allocations to MDAs that have not honoured the request by this House, and that is duly noted; We would Make sure and ensure that as long as we are in the loop, we would obviously abide by this House; whatever you recommend here would be followed through by the Ministry.

With that Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I moved that the following Votes as amended stand part of the schedule.

Vote	Div.	Vote Description	Amount [NLe]
205	01	Ministry of Internal Affairs	4,743,200.00
110	07	Political Parties Regulation Commission	6,144,100
118	01	The Judiciary	30,000,000
428	01	National Investment Board	5,365,000
428	04	Public Private Partnership Unit	1,500,000
428	03	Corporate Affairs Commission	1,000,000
428	03	Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion	2,500,000

		Agency	
403	01	Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources	5,529,400
134	01	Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone	99,985,300
110	09	Law Reform Commission	622,200
403	01	Ministry of Mines and Minerals Resources	5,529,400
110	12	National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency [NaMED]	1,371,000
125	01	Local Courts	400,000
701	10	Koinadugu District Council	12,034,904
701	07	Makeni City Council	4,700,958

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The following Votes as pronounced by the Minister form part of the schedule]

VOTES

12801,12402,12403,13201,11005,11004,11006,40201,40502,41101,40503,12401,20301 and 70119 stand part of the schedule.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the following Votes stand part of the schedule.

BUDGET HEADS AND SUB-HEADS: 2026			
VOTE	DIVISION	VOTE DESCRIPTION	TOTAL SUM VOTED NLE
128	01	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation	98, 513,300
124	02	Office of the Admin. & Registrar -General	7,431,900

124	03	Justice Sector Coordination Office	2,040,500
132	01	Accountant- General's Department	29,849,100
110	05	Office of the Ombudsman	3,526,900
110	04	Anti- Corruption Commission (ACC)	13,700,000
110	06	Independent Media Commission (IMC)	698,200,000
402	01	Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources	23,756,300
405	02	Monuments & Relics Commission	1,326,700
411	01	Road Maintenance Fund Administration (RMFA)	671,150,900
405	03	National and Rail way Museums	751,800
124	01	Office of the Solicitor – General	45,742,700
203	01	National Civil Registration Authority (NCRA)	15,000,000
701	19	Western Area Rural District Council (WARDC)	10,693,949

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

Report of the sixth Appropriation Sub-Committee

GROUP SIX [6]

1. INTRODUCTION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in exercise of the powers enshrined in Section **112**, Sub-section **6** of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act **No.6** of 1991, and Standing Order [S.O] 66[1], Parliament is mandated to examine the various Budgetary Heads for the Bill entitled, '**the Appropriation Act 2026**', as committed to the Appropriation Sub-Committee of Supply No.6.

The said Bill seeks to consolidate efforts aimed at restoring fiscal discipline in the management of the economy under the major theme: "**to improve domestic revenue mobilization by strengthening tax collection and protection of the poor and cost of living relief**".

The Report, hereby presented is in line with the Government's Big Five Game Changer Policy after thorough scrutiny of budgetary allocations of the under-mentioned Ministry Department and Agencies [MDAs] and Local Councils from the **10th to 15th December, 2025**.

The under-mentioned MDAs and Local Council and their proposed 2026 budget estimates read as follows:

BUDGET HEADS AND SUB- HEADS:			
2026			
VOTE	DIVISION	VOTE DESCRIPTION	TOTAL SUM VOTED LE
128	01	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation	98, 513.300
124	02	Office of the Admin. & Registrar -General	7,431,900
124	03	Justice Sector Coordination Office	2,040,500
132	01	Accountant- General's Department	29,849,100
110	05	Office of the Ombudsman	3,526,900
110	05	Anti- Corruption Commission (ACC)	13,700,00.00

110	06	Independent Media Commission (IMC)	698,200.00
402	01	Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources	23,756,300.00
405	02	Monuments & Relics Commission	1,326,700
411	01	Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA)	106,478,200
411	01	Road Maintenance Fund Administration (RMFA)	671,150,900
405	03	National and Rail way Museums	751,800
124	01	Office of the Solicitor – General	45,742.700
203	01	National Civil Registration Authority (NCRA)	15,000,000
701	19	Western Area Rural District Council (WARDC)	10,693,949

2. COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND SUPPORT STAFF

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, and the Sub Appropriation Committee Group **6** comprised the following Members:

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

- 1) Hon. Ambrose Maada Lebby
Chairman
- 2) Hon. Mohamed T. Fofanah
Deputy Chairman
- 3) Hon. Musa Lahai
- 4) Hon. Mohamed Sheriff Kargbo
- 5) Hon. Rebecca Y. Kamara
- 6) Hon Aminata Sesay
- 7) Hon. Pst. Fatmata Sarah Soukenah
- 8) Hon. Juliana Alimatu Fatorma
- 9) Hon. Alice Jebbeh Kumabeh
- 10) Hon. PC Alhaji Musa Bamba Kulio Jalloh
- 11) Hon. Bashiru Silikie - Supervisor

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

1. Kemoh Marrah - Lead Clerk
2. Suliaman Alie Musa
3. Khadijah Sahida Bangura
4. Tamba Torto

3. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee was tasked with the following responsibilities:

- 1) Thoroughly examine the recurrent and capital budget estimates of MDAs and provide recommendations for the general debate in the House;
- 2) Evaluate whether the allocations for 2023 and 2024 were expended judiciously;
- 3) Assess the budgetary allocations of MDAs for 2025, ensuring alignment with their mandates and presented work plans to the Committee; and
- 4) Identify and underscore challenges and constraints encountered by the MDAs.

4. PROCEDURE/ METHODOLOGY

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee sent out questionnaires to all Vote Controllers of Ministries, Departments and Agencies mentioned above for detailed information on how the budgetary allocations and all monies that were received for and on behalf of Government of Sierra Leone for the Fiscal Year 2025 were expended. Vote Controllers were requested to respond to questions relating to their budgetary allocations, highlighting their challenges, proffering solutions and stating how they have been able to carry out their respective mandates in order to achieve set goals and objective for the next financial year.

5. OBJECTIVES

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the hearings were conducted with the aim of achieving the following objectives:

- To examine the absorptive capacity of the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies and ascertain whether they were able to prudently manage and utilize their budgetary allocations and other resources allocated to them;
- To determine whether Revenue generating Ministries, Departments and Agencies were able to meet their revenue targets;
- To determine whether the expenditures of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the last fiscal year conformed to established financial rules and regulations;
- To examine the strengths and weaknesses in budget preparation and performance of Ministries, Departments and Agencies with the view of improving on the appropriation process;
- To provide Justification for any increase or decrease in the allocations for a given Financial Year;
- To ascertain whether budgetary resources were equitably distributed;
- To highlight challenges or constraints faced by the Ministries Department Agencies and make appropriate recommendations to address them; and
- To enhance transparency and accountability in the management of public funds.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to convey sincere appreciation to the Leadership of Parliament and the Office of the Clerk for their guidance and essential logistical support during this significant undertaking. I am particularly thankful to representatives from representatives of the various MDAs who participated in the proceedings.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, I also want to express gratitude to the Committee Members for their dedication in ensuring the success of the process. The Committee acknowledges the Department of Committees for providing Clerks to support its work

and extends thanks to the Parliamentary Budget Office for the assistance received in fulfilling its mandate of reviewing the Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2025. Lastly, the Committee recognizes the members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery assigned to Sub – Committee 6 for their coverage throughout the process.

7. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the following recommendations will do us good for the entire MDAs under the Committee’s purview:

- During thorough scrutiny, the Committee observed that most of the MDAs did not receive their quarterly budgetary allocations from the Ministry of Finance; this affect productivity in implementing deliverable services;
- That, many MDAs had challenge in submitting their Appropriation Questionnaires and also attending the hearing sessions due to delay in debating the Finance Bill for the Appropriation process. This affects the whole process to produce reports on time; and
- MDAs should be in compliance with the Appropriation schedule and the Leadership of Parliament also emphasize on meeting the financial calendar as enshrined in the Constitution.

8. SPECIFIC FINDINGS

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, below are the specific observations and findings on the MDAs and Local Councils assigned to Committee 6:

VOTE: (128-01) MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation is the principal advisory agency of Government on matters relating to the formulation and implementation of the foreign policy objectives of the Country in accordance with the generality of Section 10 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone [Act. No 6 of 1991] and in consistent with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic as well as Consular Relations. The mandate of this Ministry includes the promotion of Sierra Leone’s interest, her voice, legitimacy and representation at both bilateral and multilateral levels.

In 2025 FY, the Ministry submitted **NLe324, 132,302** to the Ministry of Finance, but **NLe81, 371,600** was allocated. It was however observed from the Ministry's expenditure matrix that **NLe188, 901,004.20**, which was expended mainly on foreign travels, administration and foreign missions. The Director General disclosed unavailability of visa stickers, lack of electronic visas and unpredictability at the Foreign Service Academy are some of the challenges affecting the Ministry.

For 2026 FY, the Ministry submitted a budget of **NLe358, 534,522** to the Ministry of Finance. However, the Ministry of Finance allocated **NLe98, 513,300** to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Director General mentioned that the decrease would affect overseas travels, posting of ambassadors and other presidential appointees.

While recommending the approval of the Ministry's 2026 allocation of NLe98, 513,300 by the House, the Committee considered the allocation inadequate.

VOTE: (124-02) OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR AND REGISTRAR GENERAL

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Office of the Administrator and Registrar General (OARG) in Sierra Leone is a pivotal government institution responsible for the registration and administration of various legal documents and processes. Its core functions encompass business registration, land transactions, industrial property rights, marriages, and the administration of estates of deceased persons, as mandated by law.

In the 2025 fiscal year, the Administrator General submitted a budget of **NLe8, 144,000** to the Ministry of Finance, but **NLe2,972,800** was allocated. The Vote Controller disclosed this allocation was expended on administration and operating costs, budget planning, monitoring and execution of the budget, as well as reporting. Additionally, there was support provided to the office of the Administrator General and assistance for online registration processes related to businesses and marriages.

The Committee observed that this institution generated revenue totaling **NLe5,527,406** out of a revenue target of **NLe4,500,000** from various revenue sources, such as registration of conveyances and other legal instruments, conduction of

civil marriages and issuance of Muslim and Christian marriage certificates, registration of businesses and registration of intellectual property.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, with a budget submission of **Le6,007,600.00** to the Ministry of Finance for the 2026 fiscal year, the Commission was, however, given a budget ceiling of **Le6,007,600.00**. The sum of **Le 7, 431,900.00** awaits Parliament approval. The Committee also noted a slight increase of **19.16%** in the Administrator's allocation. According to the Vote Controller, if this amount is released on time, most of the challenges that the Office has been encountering would be addressed.

The Office highlighted the following constraints for the intervention of the Parliament:

- i. Not retaining a percentage of revenue collected for operational purposes as compared to other revenue generating Institutions;
- ii. Not accessing the transit account to facilitate a more independent reconciliation; and
- iii. Lack of sufficient logistics to run the office.

While commending this Office for exceeding revenue target, the Committee deemed this allocation as adequate and thus recommends its approval by the House.

VOTE: (124-03) JUSTICE SECTOR COORDINATION OFFICE

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Justice Sector Coordination Office (JSCO) in Sierra Leone, established in June 2007, operates under the Ministry of Justice with the mandate to coordinate reforms within the justice sector. Its primary objective is to ensure that the political stability achieved post-civil war is complemented by institutional reforms that strengthen good governance. The JSCO's mission is to foster collaboration among justice sector stakeholders, promote legal reforms, and ensure equitable access to justice for every Sierra Leonean. Its vision is to establish a fair and efficient justice

system that upholds the rule of law, protects human rights, promotes transparency, and contributes to sustainable development.

In 2025 FY, the Office submitted an original budget of **NLe3, 613,795** to the Ministry of Finance. However, **NLe 2,500,000** was allocated. The Committee further observed that the Office received **NLe1, 994,000** as donations from UNDP and UNICEF. These donations were utilised on sensitisation of the Criminal Procedure Act and implementation of the Child Justice Strategy.

For 2026 FY, this Office submitted an original budget of **NLe2, 019,670** to the Ministry of Finance, but was allocated **NLe2, 040,500**. The Coordinator disclosed that if this allocation would be expended on general administration, support to Sierra-Lee and coordination of justice sector institutions.

The Committee deemed this allocation adequate and therefore recommends its approval by the House.

VOTE: (132-01) ACCOUNTANT- GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Accountant General's Department (AGD) in Sierra Leone operates under the Ministry of Finance, serving as the government's principal accounting and financial management institution. Its core responsibilities include managing public funds, ensuring accurate and timely financial reporting, and maintaining the integrity of the government's financial systems. The AGD is structured into several units, each focusing on specific aspects of financial management, such as transaction processing, administrative functions, and management information systems. This organizational framework ensures efficient handling of the government's financial operations.

In the 2025 FY, this Department submitted a total budget of **NLe48, 279,000** to the Ministry of Finance, but it was allocated the sum of **NLe18, 149,000**. The Committee observed from the review of the Department's expenditure matrix that **NLe13,448,611.86** was expended on administration & operational costs, capacity

building of accounting staff, and support to the management of IFMIS infrastructure, etc.

For 2026 FY, the Department's budget submission to the Ministry of Finance was **Le 42,789,000.00**, but was however allocated **Le29, 849,100.00**. The Committee noted a decrease of **17.49%** in the Department's original budget. The Accountant General revealed that if this allocation is disbursed on time, it would help to address the challenges confronting the Institution.

VOTE: (110-05) OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Office of the Ombudsman in Sierra Leone is an independent institution established under Section 146(2) of the 1991 Constitution and operationalized by the Ombudsman Act No. 2 of 1997. Its primary mandate is to investigate complaints from the public regarding injustices resulting from maladministration by government ministries, departments, agencies, statutory corporations, or institutions funded by public resources.

In the 2025 FY, the Ombudsman submitted a budget of **NLe9, 370,000** to the Ministry of Finance, the Office was however allocated **NLe3, 526,000**. The Committee observed that the Ombudsman received and expended **NLe1, 373,000** administration and operating costs, update of a user-friendly website, establish & maintain constructive and formal dialogue and adjudication of public complaints.

For 2026 FY, the Office of the Ombudsman submitted a budget of **NLe12, 621,000.00** to the Ministry of Finance, but the Office was allocated **NLe Le3, 526,900**. According to the Executive Secretary, the decrease in the Office's 2026 allocation would affect communication and public relation activities, adjudication of public complaints, intake clinics and public sensitization on sextortion for the operating year.

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Transport & Aviation support the Office of the Ombudsman with vehicles to enhance their activities nationwide

The Committee however considered the Office of the Ombudsman's allocation of NLe3, 526,900 adequate and therefore recommends that it be approved by this Honourable House.

VOTE: (110-05) ANTI CORRUPTION COMMISSION (ACC)

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of Sierra Leone, established in 2000 under the Anti-Corruption Act, operates as an independent agency dedicated to combating corruption through prevention, investigation, prosecution, and public education. The Commission has enhanced public education campaigns and improved Sierra Leone's standings in international anti-corruption indices. The ACC's comprehensive approach underscores its commitment to fostering transparency, accountability, and integrity within Sierra Leone's public and private sectors.

In the 2025 FY, the Commission submitted an original budget of **NLe104, 729,536**, but was allocated **NLe52, 145,833.00**. The Committee however discovered that **NLe81,085,319** was expended on general administration, consolidate and deepen public support, awareness in the fight against corruption through the empowerment of communities, engagement with a total of 190-institutions – schools colleges , universities and youth groups, investigations of at least **50%** of corruption cases that may be reported, corruption risk assessment of 3 MDAs, review and formulation of polices in 10 Local Councils, monitoring of systems review recommendations in 3 MDAs, **80%** verification of assets and liabilities of FEPs and PEPs, etc.

The Committee was informed that the Commission received **\$524,991 as** grant from the World Bank. According to the Commissioner, the grant was utilized on monitoring of payment to PSSNYE beneficiaries, production of information and education materials, acquisition of office equipment, vehicles and motorbikes repairs, investigation of PSSNYE corruption cases, salaries for PSSNYE Project staff, etc.

The Commissioner revealed that **NLe23, 606,459.00** was recovered from individuals or institutions owing the Government of Sierra Leone. Of this amount, the Commission retained **10%** as stated in the 2019 Act.

The Commissioner stated that inadequate budgetary allocation, capacity building and inadequate mobility are some of the challenges confronting the Commission.

For 2026 FY, the Commission submitted a budget of **NLe16, 493,000** to the Ministry of Finance, but **NLe13, 700,000** was allocated.

The Commission further revealed their challenges of inadequate budgetary allocations, inadequate vehicles and staff strength which the Ministry of Finance should address to meet best practice.

The Committee considered the Commission's NLe13, 700,000 allocations adequate and therefore recommend its approval.

VOTE: (110-06) INDEPENDENT MEDIA COMMISSION (IMC)

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Independent Media Commission (IMC) of Sierra Leone, established by the Independent Media Commission Act of 2000 and subsequently amended, serves as an autonomous body responsible for regulating mass media institutions within the country. The IMC's primary objectives include promoting professionalism, ensuring efficiency in media services, fostering fair competition among media entities, protecting journalists' interests, and safeguarding the public from media exploitation or abuse. The Commission's mandate encompasses enforcing compliance with media regulations, advising the Minister on media policy formulation, maintaining a register of media institutions, and establishing licensing categories for electronic media

In the 2025 FY, the Commission submitted to the Ministry of Finance a budget totaling **NLe4, 566,980.00**. However, **NLe387, 100** was allocated, registering a decrease of **NLe4, 479,880**. The Commission's expenditure matrix disclosed that **NLe1,220,000** was expended on administrative costs, reconstruction of community radio governance, programming for food security and support for key government

development plans, reformation of media regulatory laws and policies, robust media monitoring and public compliant hearings, and organize national media awards.

The Committee also noted that the Commission generated revenue amounting to **NLe705, 803,000** out of revenue target of **NLe600, 000**. The revenue was generated from various sources, such as application forms, renewal of licenses, registration fees, fines, etc. The Committee was informed that revenue was exceeded in 2025 due to robust debts collection from Media Houses.

For 2026 FY, the Commission submitted a budget of **NLe5, 641,460** to the Ministry of Finance. Nevertheless, **NLe698, 200** was allocated. According to the Executive Secretary, the decrease would the establishment of new regional offices, ICT equipment, establishment of effective media resource centers, trainings, media monitoring software, etc.

Considering the critical role of this institution in terms of ensuring efficiency in media services and fostering fair competition among media entities, the Committee considered its 2026 allocation of NLe5, 641,460 inadequate and thus recommends additional funding to support the institution effectively in its operational missions. The Committee further advised that the Commission should explore partnership with international donor agencies to support the operations and capacity building initiatives and build stronger collaboration with national and international media regulatory bodies to enhance best practices and technical support.

VOTE: (402-01) MINISTRY OF FISHERIES & MARINE RESOURCES

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) in Sierra Leone is tasked with the management, development, and conservation of the nation's fisheries resources, encompassing marine, inland, and aquaculture sector. The fishing industry in Sierra Leone is characterized by both

industrial and artisanal operations, with the latter playing a significant role in local economies and food security.

In the 2025 fiscal year, the Ministry embarked on the following expenditure drives to effectively run the institution: Administrative cost, technical division cost for which the Ministry actually spent **Le 18,818,100.60**.

Budget analysis for the 2025 FY is shown in the table below

No	Details	Total Le
1	Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2025	2,326,555.86
2	Budget approved	23,500,000.00
3	Actual budget allocated	9,400,000.00
4	Actual budget received	25,593,872.00
5	Donation/Grant, Loan received	Nil
6	Other revenue	Nil
7	Closing bank balance as at Sept. 2025	9,102,427.26

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry submitted a budget of **Le29,431,000.00** for the 2025 fiscal year to the Ministry of Finance and **Le23,500,000.00** was approved. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2025, the Ministry received **Le25, 593,872.00** from the Ministry of Finance for the 1st - 3rd Quarters which inclusive the Public Investment Projects (PIP) of Le **16,000,000.00**. for FY 2024.

Key Findings

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, in discussing the challenges the Ministry experienced in the course of performing their functions, the Committee made following key findings:

- **The Officials shared with the Committee that the Ministry's revenue target for the Financial Year 2025 was Le90, 000,000.00 and actual**

revenue collected as 30th September 2025 amounted to Le 98,956,836.67. The Ministry exceeded their revenue target because of increased engagement and collaboration with fishing Companies, and the rolling out of the NRA Non Tax Revenue Application for the collection of Artisanal License and change in the License Regime for industrial sector from Size Based to Quota Based System. Revenue projection for F.Y 2026 is Le 200,000,000.00.

- **The Committee observed that all revenue generated by the Ministry are collected by NRA and paid directly into the consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF).**

Financial Year 2026

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members ,with a budget submission of **Le28,793,200.00** to the Ministry of Finance for the 2026 fiscal year, the Ministry was, however, given a budget ceiling of **Le28,739,200.00**.The sum of **Le23,756,300.00** awaits Parliament approval. The Committee also noted a decrease of **17.34%** in the Ministry's approved budget. According to the Vote Controller, if this amount is however received and wholly released on time, most of the challenges that the Ministry has been encountering will be addressed.

The Committee recommends that critical constraints of the Ministry such as late and inadequate disbursement, shortage of staff to collect license fees, monitor and supervise the fishing sector be addressed by the Ministry of Finance.

VOTE: (405-02) MONUMENTS & RELICS COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Monuments and Relics Commission (MRC) of Sierra Leone, established in 1948 following the enactment of the Monuments and Relics Ordinance in 1946, is the principal government agency responsible for the preservation and protection of the nation's cultural heritage. The MRC's mandate includes identifying, proclaiming, and safeguarding sites and objects of archaeological, ethnographic, historical, or scientific significance. This encompasses a wide range of heritage assets,

such as ancient buildings, ruins, stone circles, graves, caves, rock shelters, and other culturally important sites

Budget analysis for the 2025 FY is shown in the table below

No	Details	Total Le
1	Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2025	998,848.75
2	Budget approved	5, 318,700.00
3	Actual budget allocated	797,800.00
4	Actual budget received	797,800.00
5	Donations & Grant	Nil
6	Other revenue	Nil
7	Actual expenditure	1,179,957.72
8	Closing bank balance as at Sept. 2025	434,619.21

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Commission submitted a budget of **Le5,896,000.00** for the 2025 fiscal year to the Ministry of Finance and **Le5,318,700.00** was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2025, the Commission only received **Le797, 800.00** from the Ministry of Finance for 1st Quarters only. The Committee observed a huge dropped of **85%** in the Commission's actual budget received from the GoSL Regular Budget.

Key Findings

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, in discussing the challenges the Commission experienced in the course of performing their functions, the Committee made following key findings:

Financial Year 2026

For 2026 FY, the Commission was allocated the sum of **NLe1, 326,700.00** by the Ministry of Finance. According to the Vote Controller, if this amount is released on time, most of the challenges that the Commission has been facing would be addressed.

. The Commission further outlined the critical constrains such as:

- i. Lack of core staff and stagnation of staff promotion; and
- ii. Lack of mobility and inadequate resources to rehabilitate cultural heritage site.

The Committee recommends for recruitment of core staff to enhance effective service delivery and also the Commission should improve on massive civic education and established partnership with the National Civic Education Programme to boost the sector in both awareness raising and revenue generation.

VOTE: (425-01) SIERRA LEONE ROADS AUTHORITY (SLRA)

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA), established by the SLRA Act of 1992, is the principal agency responsible for the planning, development, and maintenance of the national road network in Sierra Leone. Its core mandate includes the control, development, maintenance, efficient planning, and reliable management of the national road network to provide safe, reliable, and sustainable means of transport.

In the 2025 FY, the Authority made a budget submission of **NLe168, 510,560** to the Ministry of Finance, but **259,436,600.00** was allocated. The Committee however noted that the Authority received **NLe10, 050,653.60**, which was expended on operational cost, road maintenance activities plus the direct payment by RMFA to SLRA contractors. The Committee further observed that the Authority generated revenue totaling **NLe1, 793,348.39** from various revenue sources, such as right of way lease land, bill boards, land lease lowering of kerbs, registration and renewal of contractors works certificates, etc. Questioned whether revenue collected was paid to TSA, the Director General revealed that SLRA does not pay revenue into the TSA because the Authority is not part of the TSA.

For 2026 FY, the Authority submitted a budget of **NLe160, 001,950** to the Ministry of Finance, but was allocated **NLe106, 478,200**. The observed that for 2026 FY, the Authority projected revenue of **NLe2,855,500** from laboratory testing, bill boards –

right of way, land lease – right of way, registration and renewal of contractors works certificates, sale of bidding documents, etc.

The Authority highlighted challenges such as budget implementation to meet reporting timeline, payment by a third party (RMFA) contractors and timing of payment to contractors which requires amendment in their statutory implementations to enhance efficiency and synergy between the Authority and RMFA.

VOTE: (411-01) ROAD MAINTENANCE FUND ADMINISTRATION (RMFA).

Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members, the Road Maintenance Fund Administration (RPIFA) of Sierra Leone, established by the RMFA Act No. 3 of 2010, is tasked with financing the maintenance of the nation's core road network. The RMFA's primary objective is to ensure the proper, efficient, economic, and sustainable management of the Road Fund dedicated to maintaining the national road network. Its key functions include managing and administering the Road Fund, approving funding allocations to the Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA) and other entities for road maintenance activities, monitoring the utilization of allocated funds to ensure value for money, and collaborating with local councils and bodies on road-related projects.

In the 2025 fiscal year, the administration embarked on the following expenditure drives to effectively run the institution: administration costs, SLRA operational support which included capacity building of staff and board members, local council's maintenance activities, and SLRA maintenance activities from their annual work plan for which the Administration actually spent Le 168,723,776.00.

Budget analysis for the 2025 FY is shown in the table below

No	Details	Total Le
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1	Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2025	18,073,256.62
2	Budget approved	207,700,000
3	Actual budget allocated	N/A
4	Actual budget received	N/A
5	Donation/Grants/Loan received	N/A
6	Other revenue(Revenue Generation)	171,531,939.89
7	Closing bank balance as at Sept. 2025	20,881,272.51

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Administration submitted a budget of Le207,700,000.00 for the 2025 fiscal year to the Ministry of Finance and Le207,700,000.00 was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2025, the Administration did not receive allocation from the Ministry of Finance for 1st - 3rd Quarters. Other revenues amounted to the sum of **Le 171,534,939.89**. The Committee observed that the allocation due to the Administration from the GoSL Regular Budget was not disbursed.

KEY FINDINGS:

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, during the budgetary hearing the Committee made the following observations:

- As a key player to secure timely routine and periodic maintenance of the core road network in the country, the RMFA is challenge with conflicting mandates with other players such as SLRA, SLRSA, and Local Government which requires urgent review with all relevant players in the road maintenance sector.
- There is also a challenge in harmonizing road maintenance programmes with other players
- Fuel levy – the current rate of fuel levy in Sierra Leone is the lowest in West Africa. This has impact of low generation of revenue from road users charges levied on fuel. The Committee recommend an increase in fuel levy on both fuel products to the ECOWAS recommended rate of 0.20 USD per liter

- Vehicle license & registration fees- there has never been any comprehensive data set for all vehicle licenses and registrations within the borders of Sierra Leone from SLRSA. This makes it difficult to ascertain the percentage and availability revenue accrued from such exercise by SLRSA. RMFA recommends that SLRSA produces a comprehensive data for all vehicle licenses and registration within the borders of Sierra Leone.
- **The Officials shared with the Committee that the Administration's revenue target for the Financial Year 2025 was Le171, 000,000.00 and actual revenue collected as 30th Sept. 2025 amounted to Le 171,000,000.00. The Administration meet their revenue target because of a more robust regulation and monitoring of OMCs honouring their obligation to GoSL, more regular and timely RUC payments to the RMFA, reduction in volume of sales made by the OMCs and a reduction in the RUC rate(subsidies). Revenue projection for F.Y 2026 is Le 5,720,000.00.**
- **The Committee observed that the revenue generated by the Administration is retained for administrative cost and operation.**

Financial Year 2026

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members ,with a budget submission of **Le268,000,000.00** to the Ministry of Finance for the 2026 fiscal year, the Administration was, however, given a budget ceiling of **Le268,000,000.00**.The sum of **Le268,000,000.00** awaits Parliament approval. According to the Vote Controller, if this amount is however received and wholly released on time, most of the challenges that the Administration has been encountering will be addressed. The Committee recommends for the review of the various Acts to address critical challenges highlighted above.

VOTE: (405-03) NATIONAL AND RAIL WAY MUSEUMS

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Monuments and Relics Commission (MRC) of Sierra Leone, established in 1948 following the enactment of the Monuments and Relics Ordinance in 1946, is the principal government agency responsible for the preservation,

protection, and promotion of the nation's cultural heritage. The MRC's mandate includes identifying, proclaiming, and safeguarding sites and objects of archaeological, ethnographic, historical, or scientific significance. This encompasses a wide range of heritage assets, such as ancient buildings, ruins, stone circles, graves, caves, rock shelters, and other culturally important sites.

In the 2025 fiscal year, the Museums submitted a budget of **NLe4, 478,164** to the Ministry of Finance. However, **NLe627, 500** was allocated, but Le288, **600.00** was received. The Administrative Manager revealed that the stated amount was used on administrative costs, enhancing the education & outreach capacity of the museum, effective conservation and restoration of national museum artifacts, capacity building of the museum staff, showcases, purchases of equipment, etc. The Committee observed this institution lacks mobility to embark on outreach programmes, inadequate working tools and capacity building are some of the challenges affecting the Office.

The Committee observed that out of a revenue target of **NLe50, 000**, the Commission generated NLe25, 270 from the sales of tickets to access the Museum, internet café, etc.

For 2026 FY, the Museums submitted a budget of **NLeLe4, 478,164.00** to the Ministry of Finance, but was however allocated **Le751, 800.00**. The Committee also noted decrease of **83.21%** in the Museum's original budget.

While recommending the approval of the Museums' allocation, the Committee considered Le751, 800.00 inadequate and therefore recommends for additional funding.

VOTE: (124-01) OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR – GENERAL

Mr. Chairman, Honourable members, the Office of the Solicitor General in Sierra Leone functions as the principal legal advisor to the government, operating under the Ministry of Justice. The Solicitor General serves as the primary assistant to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, overseeing all civil and criminal proceedings on behalf of the

state. The Solicitor General plays a crucial role in ensuring that the government's legal affairs are managed effectively, upholding the rule of law, and protecting citizens' rights. The office collaborates with various legal and justice sector institutions, including the Legal Aid Board, Sierra Leone Law School, Law Reform Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission etc.

In the 2025 Fiscal Year, the Office submitted a budget of **NLe30, 000,000** to the Ministry of Finance. However, **NLe 17,879,600** was allocated which was hugely expended on administrative cost, witness / victim management, statutory travelling and international negotiations.

The Solicitor General revealed that they provide legal advice to the President and also represent the state on legal matters. For 2026 FY, the Office submitted a budget of **NLe70, 000,000.00** to the Ministry of Finance, but was however allocated **Le 45,742,700.00**. The Office further revealed that a decrease in the Office's original budget would affect its key administrative and legal matters. The Committee noted the importance of the Office and recommends for timely disbursement of allocations.

VOTE: (203-01) NATIONAL CIVIL REGISTRATION AUTHORITY (NCRA)

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Civil Registration Authority was established by the National Civil Registration Act, 2016. Its functions include providing for the continuous, universal, permanent and compulsory recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events including live birth, death, foetal death, marriage, divorce, annulment of marriage, judicial separation of marriage, adoption, legitimisation and recognition of citizens and residents throughout Sierra Leone for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a Permanent Civil Register of Vital Events.

In 2025 FY, the Authority submitted a budget totally **NLe68, 848,200** to the Ministry of Finance. However, the Committee observed that **NLe9, 050,700** was allocated, recording a decrease of **NLe59, 797,500**. The Committee observed that the Authority received **NLe11, 611,490**. This was reported to have been expended on key

deliverables, such as administrative and operating costs, procurement of vehicles and motorbikes, civic education and sensitisation campaign, coordination with CRVS, training of staff, strengthening the births and deaths registration, etc.

The Committee observed that the Authority generated revenue totalling **NLe267, 589,700** from various revenue sources, such as registration of adoption, marriages and divorce, sale of births and deaths certificates, sale of identity cards, etc. The Committee was informed that all revenue generated was collected by the NRA and deposited into the CRF.

For 2026 FY, the Authority submitted a budget of **NLe63, 674,950** to the Ministry of Finance, but **NLe15, 000,000** was allocated registering a decrease of **NLe48, 674,950**. The Director General revealed that the decrease would affect key deliverables, like such as administrative and operating costs, procurement of vehicles and motorbikes, civic education and sensitisation campaign, coordination with CRVS, training of staff, strengthening the births and deaths registration, etc.

The Committee considered the Authority's 2026 allocation of NLe15,000,000 adequate and therefore recommends its approval by this Honourable House.

VOTE: (700-01) WESTERN AREA RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL (WARDC)

Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members, the Western Area Rural District, with its administrative centre in Waterloo, is managed by the Western Area Rural District Council (WARDC). This council is led by a District Council Chairman and comprises 27 wards, each represented by an elected councillor.

In the 2025 fiscal year, the Council embarked on the following expenditure drives to effectively run the institution: administration and operational costs for which the Council actually spent Le 78,400,000.00

Budget analysis for the 2025 FY is shown in the table below

No	Details	Total Le
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1	Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2025	1,148,699.76
2	Budget approved	10,681,476.00
3	Actual budget allocated	2,895,784.75
4	Supplementary Budget	1,374,601.00
5	Grants received (Accountable governance)	2,784,774.79
6	Other revenue(OWN SOURCE)	6,573,819.00
7	Closing bank balance as at Sept. 2025	4,419,230.02

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Council submitted a budget of Le10,681,476.00 for the 2025 fiscal year to the Ministry of Finance and **Le10,681,476.00** was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2025, the Council received the sum of **Le2, 895,785.00** from the Ministry of Finance for 2nd Quarters. GOSL Supplementary Budget (LGDG) RMFA amounted to the sum of **Le9, 603,746.00** for 1st – 3rd Quarters, School Bus Operation amounted to the sum of **Le970, 000.00**, Grant (EU) amount to the sum of **Le9, 115,631.00** and Other Revenue (own source revenue) amounted to the sum of **Le13, 811,135.00** The Committee observed a slight increase of **11.07%** in the Council's actual budget received from the GoSL Regular Budget and Supplementary.

KEY FINDINGS:

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, during the budgetary hearing the Committee made the following observations:

- The officials shared with the Committee that the Council's revenue target for the Financial Year 2025 was Le28, 058, 122.00 and actual revenue collected as 30th Sept. 2025 amounted to Le 13,787,134.00. The Council did not meet their revenue target because Most Revenue staff contact MPOX during revenue enforcement, Technical fault with the cadastral system which is operated outside Sierra Leone, Late printing of Local Tax receipt books and late distribution of demand notices. Revenue projection for F.Y 2026 is Le 60,000.00.

- The Committee observed that the revenue generated by the Council was utilized on recurrent and capital expenditures, and there is no arrangement between Central Government and WARDC for transfer of funds into the consolidate fund.

Financial Year 2026

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, with a budget submission of **Le 10,762,360.00** to the Ministry of Finance for the 2026 fiscal year, the sum of **Le 10,76 2,360.00** awaits Parliament approval. According to the Vote Controller, if this amount is however received and wholly released on time, most of the challenges that the Museum has been encountering will be addressed.

The Council also registered critical challenges such as lack of bye laws for revenue and sanitation enforcement, low salary for core staff and inadequate logistics and mobility to address revenue mobilization. The Committee recommends that staff salary be increased and the Council to also introduce and implement bye laws for revenue mobilization, enforcement and sanitation.

9. CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, pursuant to Section **111** Sub-section **3[1]**, and Standing Orders **66[1&2]**, the Committee unanimously recommends that the entire budget Heads, including the sub- Heads listed below with its recommendations stand part of the schedule.

Finally, the Committee recommends that Institutions such as the National & Railway Museum, Monument & Relics Commission, the Ombudsman, and Independent Media Commission etc. should have access to their allocations as stated in the budget.

BUDGET HEADS AND SUB- HEADS: 2026			
VOTE	DIVISION	VOTE DESCRIPTION	TOTAL SUM VOTED LE
128	01	Min. of Foreign Affairs & Intern. Cooperation	98, 513.300

124	02	Office of the Admin. & Registrar -General	7,431,900
124	03	Justice Sector Coordination Office	2,040,500
132	01	Accountant- General's Department	29,849,100
110	05	Office of the Ombudsman	3,526,900
110	05	Anti- Corruption Commission (ACC)	13,700,00.00
110	06	Independent Media Commission (IMC)	698,200.00
402	01	Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources	23,756,300.00
405	02	Monuments & Relics Commission	1,326,700
411	01	Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA)	106,478,200
411	01	Road Maintenance Fund Administration (RMFA)	671,150,900
405	03	National and Rail way Museums	751,800
124	01	Office of the Solicitor – General	45,742.700
203	01	National Civil Registration Authority (NCRA)	15,000,000
701	19	Western Area Rural District Council (WARDC)	10,693,949

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Hon. Ambrose Maada Lebbay - Chairman

Sub - Appropriation Committee- Group 6

HON. REBECCA YEI KAMARA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to use this opportunity to thank my Chairman, Group Six for a very good Report and presentation.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to first of all look at the general concern before going into smaller details. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, all of us can agree that Sierra Leone has more than enough Revenue streams; starting from the village level to the city of Freetown. But because we lack the mechanisms to put some of these revenue streams under control, we always depend on Donors Funds or Loans to support our programmes. I remember when I was small, my father had a very small Radio and a musical set called Turn-Table. I used to see the Council People coming to my father asking him to pay Tax for the use of those gadgets.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, if you see us admiring other overseas countries today it is because they have control over the leakages of their revenue streams. When our government decided to fund our elections single handed, we did without any foreign donor giving us money. This shows that we can be able to have control over our own business.

But Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, because of the leakages in our revenue streams, especially our home source revenue, we always find it difficult to champion our own courses financially. We only concentrate most times on the Taxes collected from the Freetown City. I am not against people paying Taxes in Freetown, but what do we do on the leakages that are happening in our Districts? People always cry that the government has not done this, the Budget is not enough, and the Allocations have not come on time. How can the Ministry of Finance send in the Allocations when we have revenue streams that we do not have control over?

During the Committee Group Six meeting with the MDAs, we realized that most of the MDAs blamed their lack of performance or proper delivery on the fact that they did not either receive their Allocations on time, or did not receive it at all.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Some people think that when you say 'Government', it means Dr Julius Maada Bio, no; it is all of us that make up a Government. Many people want to see development but they do not want to contribute to development. Sometimes people use their influence to escape paying Taxes, and at the end they would want to blame Government for not delivering well; you need to blame yourself. Most times when the Councils want to collect Store or Shop Licences, some people may decide to close their shops or stores for days or for certain hours just to evade the payment of Taxes. At the end of the day, these are the very people that will cry the Council or the Government down for not paving the streets, provide light, water and collect wastes in their communities.

As citizens, let us realize that we are part of Government, and we have a role to play in ensuring that all these activities in the different MDAs are financed by us. If we just depend on Donor Funds or Loans, we will always be crying over bad debts or Loans, when in actual fact we have our owned Revenue Sources. Our brothers and sisters living in the diaspora are always crying that the taxes are killing them because most of what they generate goes through Taxes, and it is true. I remember I went to visit my Aunt in the UK, and she was telling me that she had to pay the Council for parking our vehicle in front of our compound. The situation is completely different in Freetown. Here, we even park or abandon our vehicles and block traffic, thinking it is our right.

There was a time I went to Monrovia, Liberia, and I parked my vehicle in front of a Shop at Broad Street and I was given a Ticket for parking there and I had to pay. If you try to introduce that in Freetown here, trust me you will create trouble.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I am calling on Sierra Leoneans, especially those that are responsible for controlling the Owned Source Revenue to ensure that leakages are prevented so that we can generate more income. Mr Chairmen, one of our revenue

streams is the Mining sector, but it is very pathetic to note that almost all the Mining Companies we used to get income from Kono are closing down because of internal conflicts. Also, I am made to understand that the diamond markets have been polluted with artificial diamonds, and so the price of diamond has dwindled and Investors no longer want to invest again in diamond mining; they instead prefer investing now in Iron Ore and other minerals.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, during the first term of President Bio, we saw a hovering around the country, and we were informed that it was surveying to ascertain the various mineral deposits we have in the country. Some of us are yet to know the exact types of Mineral deposits discovered during that survey. I am sure we have Mining Companies that are not only mining the Minerals they were licensed for, but also carting away other minerals at the detriment of the country and its people. So if we continue on the level where there are no controls to our minerals, Sierra Leone will keep losing in the mineral sector.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to now look at specifically the National Civil Registration Authority. In terms of their Allocation, one would say it is good, but the delivery level of the Authority in terms of the issuance of ID Cards still has some challenges. As I speak, my people in Kono are grumbling over the constraints they go through in securing their National ID Cards. For instance, my grandmother who lives in Kamiandor has to pay **NLe600** transportation, to and from Koidu City just to secure her National ID Card that costs less than **NLe200**. With such a condition, how many people from that part of the country can afford securing an ID card? So, our people are now calling for the process to be taken down to Chiefdom level, or strategize a way of registering them at Chiefdom level. If you go now to Koidu City, people are crowded in the Registration Office. There was a time I approached the Director and some senior workers at NCRA Office in Koidu regarding taking their job to the Chiefdom level and they said they do not have enough money and staff to cover those areas.

So, if with all that amount Allocated them they still have those challenges in issuing out National ID Cards to the people, I am afraid. I do not have the correct statistics but if we check properly, I do not think NCRA has issued up to **40%** National ID Cards to Sierra Leoneans, and I believe we need to pay serious attention to that. The National ID Cards are very important for proper documentation of Sierra Leoneans home and abroad.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, during our discussion in the group, we found out that the amount allocated to the Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA] is good, but those moneys normally do not come on time. And SLRA told us that for the whole of this year they did not get money from the fuel levy they normally use to have, and as a result, they could not perform their operations effectively. Take a look at the roads, you would find out that even though most of the roads are fairly new, some have already started going apart. The Road to Kono, approaching the Checkpoints is almost going apart because of lack of maintenance. I know that SLRA is doing some little bits of maintenance, but there is no maintenance in some of the areas, even the townships because they have not been decentralized properly; according to them, they were decentralized at regional level but they withdraw because they were not having enough money to put in this Account to enable them operate at regional level. So for me, that is not too good for the work of SLRA.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I would therefore recommend for SLRA to be established and operationalized at district level, because if they are at district level so that all the Roads constructed by the government can be properly and regularly maintenance. When you go overseas, you would find out that they are not always putting money to reconstruct their roads; rather, they always embark on maintenance. Mr Chairman, I would strongly recommend that more attention is paid to the work of the Sierra Leone Roads Authority.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, let me also touch on the Ombudsman's Office. Mr Chairman, the Office of the Ombudsman is a very important Office but I am really not

seeing much being reported about the activities of that Office. We know that their allocation is okay, but the government really needs to look at how to properly restructure the Ombudsman's Office so that they can do their work according to their clear mandate.

Mr Chairman, Honorable Members, I want to end up on the note that if we are able to control our revenue leakages, Sierra Leone, will no longer depend purely on Loans and grants to run its activities. We will be able to implement most of our activities without asking for Donor Support or Funding. All we need to do to achieve economic independence is for us to remove Political Relationship, S.O [2] 'Sabi Sabi' and other forms of familiarities in the collection of our Revenue. Trust me if we do that, then we will realize that indeed Sierra Leone has money. We have money, but we do not know how to generate it.

And lastly before I take my seat, I have noticed that there are lots of waivers for bigger Companies... *[Interruption]*

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I would not allow you to go against **S.O** [66]; you have to confine yourself to what is in the Report.

HON.REBECCA YEI KAMARA: Okay, but I am still talking about our revenue streams.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is it in the Report?

HON. REBECCA YEI KAMARA: It is not in the Report, but I am just talking about how we should... *[Interrupted]*

THE CHAIRMAN: I know that you want us to focus on revenue enhancement and mobilization, but for the purpose of the Sub-Appropriation process, let us limit ourselves to the procedures in the **S.Os**.

HON. REBECCA YEI KAMARA: Okay, Mr Chairman

HON. CHRISTOPHER KEKURA VANDI: Mr Chairman, which tells you that everybody is poised to ensure that the revenue we need, is mobilized; that is why the Deputy Committee Chairperson is so desperate.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, let us set a debate aside for revenue mobilization, but today Let us focus on the **S.Os**.

HON. REBECCA YEI KAMARA: Mr Chairman, I want to end up with saying that some of these Votes in this Report are okay, but we need to look at the allocation to NCRA and see how we can support them to further take their services down to Chiefdom level.

Lastly, I request that we put in place proper mechanisms that would help us to better mobilize and generate our own National Resources so that we can focus less in taking loans. On that note, I want to encourage Honorable Members to look at all the Votes Heads and speedily pass this Budget, I thank you all.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Honorable Member for her wonderful contribution to the debate, and also as a Member of the Committee. But let me hasten to state that the issue of Loans is something that is very attractive when people talk about it; 'oh the Government is obtaining Loan, the Loan Portfolio is growing Etc. But there are two aspects:

The first aspect is obtaining money. Government is a business like all other businesses, and that is why Banks and Financial Institutions exist. They are there to support the deficit and they take from the surplus. There is no government in the world, including the all-powerful United States that does not have a Loan. In fact, the value of their assets that sit with China alone is over **\$3.3 Trillion**. So every government takes out Loan; the usage of the Loan and how that Loan can transition itself is the most important thing. You do not grant a Loan because of the size of the country or because you like the country. You are granting the Loan as a financier or as a Bank, *[whether the World Bank or the IMF]* because you feel and consider that all the risks are good enough, and the payment source is sustainable. And what the Ministry of Finance has been able to do in the last 12 months is to assure Development Partners that the

payment source is sustainable because they have not defaulted in any of their Loans. So you are only questioned when you defaulted. That is the first part.

The second part has to do with the volume of the Loan that sits currently in the total calculation of public debt, particularly the Loan owed to Multi-Lateral Agencies. It is so because Loans taken out some years ago become a risk to you, but it does not come into your asset or liability schedule until it matures. So during the period of a moratorium for the payment of that Loan, you would enjoy the implementation of the resources they have given to you. When the repayment kicks in and the Loan begins to tip in into your Account, then it becomes a liability that is payable to the financier.

So when once that Loan tips in together with other Loans that are due for maturity, your Loan profile increases. So what is more important is your ability to pay off your Loans whenever they tip into your Account, and the Government and the Ministry of Finance have been able to do that.

So I think it is something that is sustainable, and we would encourage the Ministry to work on the mechanism that they are working on now, and also the NRA and other Revenue collecting Ministries or Agencies should focus on generating more revenue so that Loan repayment modalities can be adhered to strictly. As it is, Loan repayment and Salaries take almost **90%** of our Domestic Revenue. So I feel we must understand this as we go along with this debate. I see no more Members, but the Chief-Whip.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Chairman, you just clarify some of the issues that I wanted to clarify about this Loan. Mr Chairman, like you said, there is no country in the world that does not take Loan, and I do not know why Sierra Leone should be different. Mr Chairman, I want to appeal to colleague Honourable Members to ensure that whenever they are part of a Committee, let them channel all their concerns or recommendations at that level so that when we come to the Well we allow other Members to debate the issues. So I want to advise that if you are a Member of a particular Committee ensure that your recommendations or concerns are factored in your Report before it comes to the plenary, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will not take any contribution from Members of Group Six. I see the Deputy Chairman trying to attract my attention, but I am sorry, the Chief Whip has spoken, and he has spoken clearly. So in the absence of any other Member, Madam Minister, you have the Floor.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE[KADIATU ALLIE] Thank you once again to this House. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members of this House, let me again acknowledge the hard work that has gone into this Report by Committee Group Six. We are very appreciative of all your recommendations, and they will be adhered to.

Let me thank you again, Mr Chairman, for the excellent explanation that you keep providing. I think I also would put in the recommendation that you come over to the Ministry of Finance, because you are doing such an excellent job explaining the Budget; the functions of Loans, and how those form part and parcels of the Budget.

I think the same points have been reechoed regarding the timely allocations and the amounts of allocation, and those points are fully noted. I think the Honourable Madam has eloquently indicated the challenges that we face in terms of generating Revenues, which are part of the reasons that make allocations not as quick or timely enough as we would all like.

Also, we have noted the NCRA Allocation, including the Sierra Leone Roads Authority and the Ombudsman in terms of their feasibility and the work that they do- those are also noted. I was hoping that they would have been in a better position at the Committee to explain their roles and why is it that they are not as visible as we might like them to be. Other than that, some of the points that have been raised here have been noted in terms of Revenues, Expenditures, and the amounts of Allocations, and we would note all of those.

Having said that, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the following votes stand part of the schedule.

BUDGET HEADS AND SUB- HEADS:			
2026			
VOTE	DIVISION	VOTE DESCRIPTION	TOTAL SUM VOTED LE
128	01	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation	98, 513.300
124	02	Office of the Admin. & Registrar -General	7,431,900
124	03	Justice Sector Coordination Office	2,040,500
132	01	Accountant- General's Department	29,849,100
110	05	Office of the Ombudsman	3,526,900
110	05	Anti- Corruption Commission (ACC)	13,700,00.00
110	06	Independent Media Commission (IMC)	698,200.00
402	01	Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources	23,756,300.00
405	02	Monuments & Relics Commission	1,326,700
411	01	Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA)	106,478,200
411	01	Road Maintenance Fund Administration (RMFA)	671,150,900
405	03	National and Rail way Museums	751,800
124	01	Office of the Solicitor – General	45,742.700
203	01	National Civil Registration Authority (NCRA)	15,000,000
701	19	Western Area Rural District Council (WARDC)	10,693,949

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The following Votes as pronounced by the Minister form part of the schedule]

[The House resumed 12:25]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, yesterday I encouraged the Director of Committees and his team to work assiduously to have four Reports today. Unfortunately, we are only able to accommodate two Reports because there were only two that available ready. This means that tomorrow and Friday we must accommodate five Reports each, because we have thirteen Committees. Of the thirteen Committees, we have only dealt with three. So, we have ten outstanding for Thursday and Friday, and this House will go on recess on Friday. We must take, conclude and pass the Budget by Friday. Subject to the outcome of our meeting, we received an explanation from the Minister, and I know is a good explanation. I have heard the explanation already, but it is good that the Minister is here, and we need demonstrative explanation. Honourable Members, when we are learning the eight Parts of Speech, they told us about the different types of Pronouns, and there is one that is called Demonstrative Pronoun, is that not so? So we need demonstrative evidence tomorrow for us to continue. Madam Minister, you can go; you are released.

But on a more serious note, this House proceeds on vacation on Friday. So I am also pleading with the Director of Committees and his team to work anyhow to ensure that we have at least five Reports ready tomorrow. If possible we can take eight Reports tomorrow. You know we can sit until 9:00 O'clock; nothing bar us from sitting up until 9:00pm, but we must finish the Budget.

So on that understanding; because we are expecting a very long sitting on Thursday and Friday, this House stands [*Undertone*] Honourable Nenneh Lebbie do you want to say something?

HON. VERONICA KADIE SESAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on **S.O** [25]; Notice of Motion, in accordance with Section **95** of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No.6 of the 1991 Constitution to move a contempt proceedings against ACCORD Logistics, relating to the Company's failure to appear before Parliament on a matter of public importance pertaining to a Contract Agreement ratified by this Parliament between Sierra Leone Lottery Limited and ACCORD Logistics in 2021.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I would have preferred that your Motions be predicated on Sections **95** and **96** of the Constitution so that we go straight into Contempt and Criminal proceedings. Do you wish to amend your Motion today or you want to present it tomorrow morning?

HON. VERONICA KADIE SESAY: In accordance with Section **95** and **96**, Sir, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: So Honourable Members, we have received a Notice of Motion, I hope we formalize the process; we receive your Motion so the House can act accordingly.

HON. VERONICA KADIE SESAY: Thank you very much, Sir.

ANNOUNCEMENT/ADJOURNMENT

The House stood down at 1:30pm and was adjourned to Thursday 18th December, 2025 at 10am prompt.