

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMETARY DEBATES

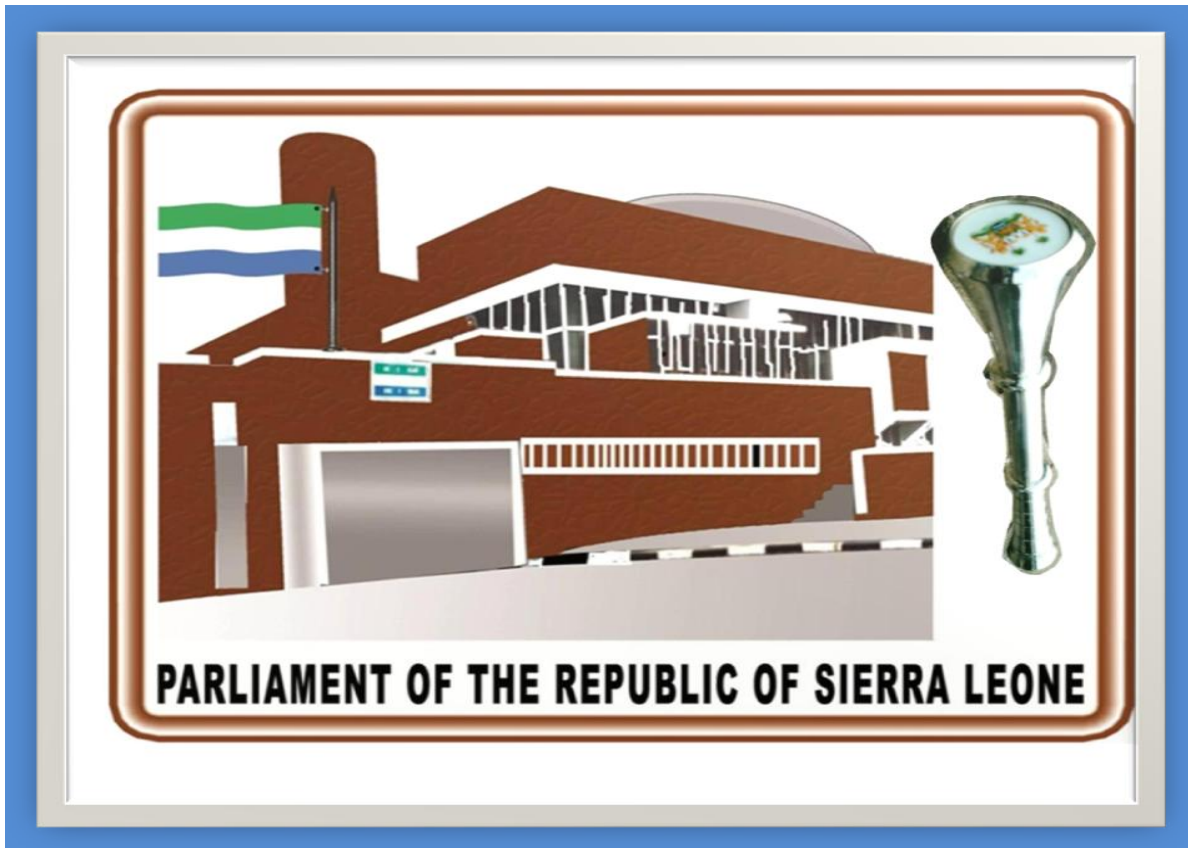
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

THIRD SESSION –FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 2025

SESSION – 2025/2026



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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
held Thursday, 27th November, 2025



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Thursday, 27th November, 2025

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Mr Alimamy L. Bangura, read the Prayers]

[The House met at 10:00a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

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

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR WEDNESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday 26th November 2025 and as usual, we will skip pages 1 to 4. Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Can a Member move?

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. KEMOKAI: I so move Mr Speaker.

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: I so second Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The Record of Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary Sitting held on Wednesday 26th November, 2025 has been adopted as presented]

III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: I do not have any substantive announcement and like yesterday, I will continue to acknowledge and recognize every Member of Parliament present and continue to thank you for being here on time and for us to start the proceedings and business of the House. It is a collective effort and we have a responsibility to keep to our people. Yesterday, we stayed here until 8 p.m. to make sure that we give Government the right Instrument to collect taxes and to fund the budget as well as other activities of the State. This is the dedication that we have signed up to until 2028 when we shall be putting our record on the line. Those of us that will be going back and those of us that have chosen not to contest anymore, I think we will support you. It is our responsibility to become a Consultant and support those who intend to aspire to become Members of Parliament. We have served and we hope that those who are going because of your dedication to service, you will be considered by your people, and you will return to represent your people. So I acknowledge everybody. I will not call the names.

IV. PAPER LAID HONOURABLE EMERSON SAA LAMINA CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES

HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, permit me to rise on S.O 18 paragraph 7 [C]. Mr Speaker, with your leave it reads 'a Minister or Member tabling a paper may make a short explanatory statement of its contents'. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Second Report of the Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Mines and Mineral Resources on its oversight functions to the

Community Development Committee [CDC] of Marampa Mines Limited and its inquiring into activities of various mining companies.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the mining sector still remains as one of the critical sectors to boom our economy. During our oversight activity, it was abundantly clear to the people of Mafokie and Marampa as well as Sierra Rutile that under the watch of President Maada Bio, we have seen a massive transformation in the mineral sector. For example, in the Mines and Minerals Act of 2022 it was abundantly made clear to them, surface rents, pursuant to Section 36 of the Mines and Mineral Development Act that used to be 50% to the community people and it is now 70%, 10% to the primary host MP, 10% to the primary host Paramount Chief and 10% to the Jurisdictional Council. It was also abundantly made clear that Chiefdoms that are not mining will now be beneficiaries.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we also realized that in Section 20 of the NMA Act 70% is now kept for the creator which is NMA. Before this time, the Ministry has little or nothing from the proceeds acquired from taxes. 70% is now kept for NMA and 30% for the Ministry. Also in the NMA Act, we realized that the Director General that was just only ceremonial position with no signature right. Mr Speaker, it is very interesting for us to also understand in Section 143 of the Mines and Minerals Development Act, it is very clear also in Section 140 Sub Section 4, that at least 1% should be given to primary host community. For example, if the miner sells 100 Million Dollars, at least 1 Million Dollars should be kept with the primary host community. We have announced a lot of development that is being headed by the CDC, the Community Development Committee, which most times comprises of Civil Societies, the Traditional Authorities, intellectuals, etc, which have been running transparent business in line with the Procurement Act. Mr Speaker, notwithstanding of all these gains in Sierra Rutile, there is a fight between crop owners as well as the mining company. We also realized that Section 35 gives right for compensation of crops. We also realized they lost some of their secret societies, and some of their shrines so they should be given compensation which the Mines Committee has set up Ad hoc committee to do further investigation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Marampa will now hand 66% and Maforkie 34%. We took the example or the model from Kono between Tankoro and Gbense. Wherein Gbense has 20% of the mining proceeds and Tankoro has about 80%. We should actually express gratitude to the leadership of Parliament for the funds they made available for us to perform this oversight. We thank you for this kind gesture. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with your leave I want Members of Parliament to allow me to lay the report the Community Development Committee of Marampa Mines Limited and its inquiry into the activities of various mining companies [Applause].

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

PROPOSER: HONOURABLE MATHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HONOURABLE AARON ARUNA KOROMA

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before I take the Motion on the Committee of Appointments and Public Service, let me take a moment to recognize the following personalities that have come to join us today. I do not know who they are supporting. I do not know why they are here, but I want to let them know that this is their House. Anytime you can come to witness our proceedings, and it is our utmost pleasure to be seeing you joining us to understand exactly what we do for and on behalf of you. But in our midst, we have Mr Batist of PATCO when I was a boy listening to SLBS, the first advertisement you hear in the morning is PATCO enterprises that was a long time. We have Dr Kishore Shakandas, the Director of EDSA. Dr Shakandas is a household name. He has been here for every other event. I was an Account Officer at Ecobank. We have Engineer Andrew Kellie the Chairman Board of Director [EDSA], Engineer Andrew Kellie was actually one of the people that brought me into politics. He was residing at 9 Freetown Road, so most times we have to consult with him when we want to take steps. When I wanted to contest for Member of Parliament in 2012, we went to him and he encouraged us to continue and today I am seated as Deputy Speaker. Dr Labor, Senior Advisor, MPHA. Sophie Johnson, Director Solar Air. Mohamed Abu, Director, Dr Patrick Tarawallay Consultant [EDSA], Dr Allassan Mansaray, Board Member of EDSA. Mr Allassan Kamo Conde, Senior Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Board Member of EDSA. Engineer Mariama Dafi, Acting Assistant Director of Procurement [EDSA], Mr Edmond Nonie, Deputy Minister of Energy, Mr Reginald Clarkson, Businessman, Evette Shears, Businesswoman, Benjamin Kamara, Chief Director, Chernor S. Jalloh Technical Director. I call him every day for transformer or for issues around Kamingo and some other communities in the Western Area. And we have Dr Elliot Tunde Taylor is not only the Chairman for OPI, but he is also the District Chairman for the Sierra Leone People's Party in the Western Area. Dr David Coker, Head of Planning Unit, Ministry of Energy. I also want to take a moment to recognize the District Chairman for the Sierra Leone People's Party in the West Urban District, Fahim Mansaray. I also see Austin Lucian, Communication Specialist at the World Bank attached to the Ministry of Energy. You are all warmly welcome. I believe we are here to support the proposed Minister of Energy.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Fourth Report of the Committee on Appointments and Public Service, on Parliamentary vetting of

Presidential nominations excerpt of the Third Sitting of the Committee on Monday 17, November, 2025 to interview on oath the proposed Minister of Energy, Mr Cyril Arnold Grant. The Committee maintained, as usual, its strict established procedures and interviewed the aforesaid Nominee on issues pertaining to his background experience to ensure that he has a relevant education and necessary backup knowledge to lead the energy sector of Sierra Leone. Probing questions put in the Nominee covered a wide range in issues relating to his track records, pertaining to declared assets, tax obligations and vision for productive changes, issues of unsuitability, otherwise were also strictly looked into by the Committee.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the energy sector is at the fore of this Government's programs to ensure it matches with increasing consumer needs. Much focus has been placed on the sector and lots have been implemented by Government following recognition of the erstwhile long serving Minister, Alhaji Kanja Sesay. Two Deputy Ministers were recently approved by this House, Special Office of Energy and Infrastructure Initiative was created to gather donor attention to the energy crisis, and the whole Ministry was better placed under the Presidency for a closer follow ups and understanding on the energy sector operations which have yielded remarkable strife in the generation capacity. To maintain these positive supervisions of the Ministry, a Technocrat, not only abreast with the sector but has been in the thick and thin of energy operations which commitment is required to carry this vision of Government in creating more access to light and curve operational inferences, insufficiencies relating to financial suitability, regulatory challenges of EDSA, EGTC, EWRC, capacity constraint of technical professionals and over reliance on Government subsidies and donor funding, amongst others. It was in this vein, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, that Mr Cyril Arnold Grant the proposed Minister was agreed by the Committee with thoroughness to ascertain his stands on the numerous challenges of the energy sector spanning over a decade in the same sector, especially at the helm of securing consensus on policies and Government directions, favored Mr Grant as seasoned Technocrat on national electricity provision on this incredible services, the Committee carefully noted:

1. That from 2018 to October 2025, the Nominee served as the Executive Technical Advisor on the policy and programs in the capacity, he assisted the Minister on key project derivable. In meeting the desired benchmark and time frame, supported private sector participation with advice on favourable policies and legislations, monitored, coordinated and reported on Project implementations to ensure value for money, build and maintain relationship with donor and MDAs vital to the energy sector. Until recently, in relation to the above, the Nominee was Coordinator of the World Bank project on enhancing Sierra Leone energy access (ESLA) on the solar mini grid and electrification projects for health centers

and schools in Moyamba District. He also led as Project Negotiator for Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea which we called the CLSG transmission line. Acted as Project Support lead and liaison for the Millennium Compact Development. Was a lead for the Japanese International Cooperation Agency called (JICA) World Bank funding of energy sector to name but a few.

2. Mr Grant, a quiet and unassuming Technocrat holds a Bachelor's Degree in architecture from the Temple University of Philadelphia in 1986 and a Master's in facility management from the Pratt University of the School of Architecture in New York in 2009 and proud of obtaining services in his home country. He works for credible engineering institution abroad, such as the Turner Construction in New York as Construction Engineer, 2004 to 2014. In 2001 to 2003 in New York, Christine Perry designed as Senior Consultant, Project Manager and host of other services in the United States of America.

Responding to the Committee on the current energy status, tariffs and intentions, the soft spoken, but unassuming Nominee acknowledged the prevailing problems hidden and the optical generation of power. But since 2020 much progress has been made, though the sector remains severely under subsidized by Government, quoting him, "in the last 10 years, Government has pumped in over \$20 Million for power generation, but Freetown still relies on Karpower Ship and Bumbuna. We are running a system that needs incredible amount to overhaul the energy infrastructure, but it is difficult to realize this when there are about 50% loss in tariffs due to energy theft that has impacted more on increased Government subsidies." We promise to investigate energy wastages and theft seriously and would appeal for accelerated legal procedures through the fast track court system to prosecute the defaulters. On Rural solar mini grid tariffs, differential with the capital, he said the city was subsidized whilst the mini grid operated on private partnership in accordance with increase in consumer numbers and appliances. He concluded on long term legislative vision of making Sierra Leone a net exporter of power, rather than just in net import. Mr Grant was applauded across Party lines as gigantic turbine that generated mega energy ideas behind the scenes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I therefore move that the Fourth Report, excerpt of the First Sitting of the Third Session of the Committee on Appointments and Public Service be adopted by the House and the recommendations therein be approved.

THE SPEAKER: Any Secunder?

HON. AARON ARUNA KOROMA: I so second Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed]

HON. AARON ARUNA KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Nominee that is before us needs not to spend the whole day here, because we all know the importance of energy. Energy is known to be one of the sectors that energizes our economy. There is no way you can have a booming economy if energy does not thrive, because almost everything hinges on energy. On that note, I want to be very brief because the Nominee that is before us seems to be one that is very much qualified and one that has a handful of experience in the energy sector. He has been in the energy sector in all his life because when you look at his resume, he has worked in the USA. He came back to Sierra Leone, continued to serve in the energy sector, and he has been in almost most of the critical interventions that successive Governments have invested in the energy sector. So I believe with his current capacity that he holds before his nomination as the Executive Technical Advisor, I believe that he has been one of the engines for propelling whatever growth we have been seeing in the energy sector.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we know for sure that we are not there yet. The need for energy continues to grow, and as per statistics, it is seen that we are still at around 36% energy access, even though Government is targeting to achieve at least 78% of energy access by 2030 but yet the challenges are still there. We believe that there are things that we need to do because we believe like they always say there are energy thefts, and whole lot of others. But we think that these are also issues that can be mitigated. The reason why the energy sector was unbundled is for the sectors, whether it is EGTC, whether it is EDSA, whether it is EWRC, which is supposed to regulate this sector to be business oriented. And when you are business oriented, your objective is to make profit. So even your investment, you have to make sure that you invest in sectors that can encourage you to enhance profit. I think this is one of the challenges the energy sector is facing. I keep asking this question why is it that almost seven years we are still relying on Karpower Ship which is an emergency energy powers source? Mr Speaker, the per kilowatt cost of the Karpower Ship is very high and is about 27 Dollars, which is way too high when you compare that to what we are getting from Bumbuna which is around 10 to 12 cent per kilowatt hour.

Mr Speaker, you can see that, unlike for the Dodo Dam one of the energy sources which has been relatively abandoned, and in terms of cost per kilowatt it is not even up to one cent per kilowatt hour. So it tells you that we have other sources of energy which we could depend on that will enable EDSA to get cheaper cost rather than resorting to very expensive energy source which will be left with no option but to pass on the same high cost to consumers, and this is why we are suffering as Sierra Leoneans. What we are paying on average is around 28 cents per kilowatt hour is little way too high. When you look at the simple calculations between all the major sources,

from Bumbuna to CLSG, which is around 18 cents, even though the cost of energy is not just about the energy that we are getting from EDSA or EGTC, there are also other costs they use to determine the cost that is being sold to consumers. But my concern here is, I want to believe that EDSA needs to focus on more renewable sources which have proven to be cheaper sources than relying on HFO, which sources are always very much high.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we also believe that there is a vast discrepancy between the cost of access to energy, between the rural poor and the people that tend to be affluent. I am happy that the proposed Minister noted that point, because our belief is that if I am in the provinces my source of energy is renewable. We believe renewable sources should be cheaper but what we experience as a nation is the reverse. What our people are paying in the rural areas far outweighed what we are paying in the urban areas. For example, if I am in Freetown, I am paying around Le65 per kilowatt hour, whereas those that are in the provinces are paying between Le18 to Le21 per kilowatt hour which is very good even when they are using solar. And if there is any category of people that we should cater for in terms of subsidy or in terms of intervention, it should be the rural people, because they do not need energy for industrial purposes. They just need that to enhance their learning, to enhance their basic livelihoods. I think we have to pay serious attention to the cost of access to energy sources that have been provided for rural communities. Even those facilities, the reality now is most of them are not even working. Apart from the cost challenges people are facing, even the functionality of those facilities are even now challenged. I want to call on the Minister, if approved to look into these, to make sure that if we continue to have these facilities which have already been installed non-functional. It will not help us to achieve our 78% target of energy access by 2030 but rather will reduce that particular trend that we tend to thrive on. I know that the MCC is on the verge to invest in energy sector, but what we should also understand that project is not going to be targeting generation. The target of that project is basically not going to be focused on distribution rather than generation, even though as we speak, we look at the generation capacity of the energy sector, it changed around 150 or more megawatts. But when you look at what we are actually using is still below 100 megawatts, it tells you that some amount of inefficiency in terms of how we can be able to leverage what we can generate as a nation, it remains a challenge. So therefore, I think we have to make sure that we strengthen the unbundling process of this sector. No nation can provide energy for all its citizens. When you go to Ghana, you go to other nations that you are admiring in terms of energy access; they are doing so with strong private sector involvement. There are communities that we do not expect Government to go and install thermal plants or whatsoever, but identify these areas as viable sources. Do

some studies, do some procurement by making sure that you encourage private sector to come in. Imagine a town like Mile 91 which has two factories, it hosts plain wood plant and tile factory. We have a university and many more other facilities. We do not have access to energy. These are areas that every investor wants to come and invest and making sure that towns like Mile 91, towns like other areas in the provinces can also get access to energy without even extra cost on Government. I think EDSA should think about being innovative by leveraging on the unbundling function we gave them in their Act to make sure that they strengthen the unbundling aspect not just focusing on energy provision for urban areas, but also rural areas which are towns that are fast growing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the CLSG we all know that is one of the sub regional arrangements that we are enjoying electricity for just 14.2 cents, it is still way too low compared to what we are paying for Karpower Ship. That is why we need to make sure that Karpower Ship agreement needs to be looked into seriously. We can access CLSG, Bumbuna and other sources, they are enough to give us the energy we need, which is relatively cheaper than resorting to paying 27 cents, which is not creating any job or even paying taxes to Sierra Leone. For CLSG they have substations. They must have employees there. In other words, they are PAYE taxes or other forms of taxes, which is already an income to Government. Let us strengthen Bumbuna and the Dodo Dam must not be abandoned simply because we have CLSG. The Dodo Dam can provide energy for at least 6 megawatts and the cost is way below one cent per kilowatt hour. It tells you that it can offer electricity than all of the other sources. I am sure, if that facility is energized, it can provide energy for the people of Kenema and Bo than relying on CLSG which is selling at 14.2 cents per kilowatt hour. When you look at the PPP or the PPA of that particular CLSG, there are corridors along the transmission lines that are supposed to benefit from energy. It is about 27 communities and what we have noticed over time is the fact that most of the communities that were supposed to benefit, the energy sector has done really well to make sure that they connect these houses. They have been provided with meters towns like Makali, Kamakwie, Fadugu, Masegbere, all of these towns, when you go there, you see meters that have been connected to these villages. Mr Speaker, for over three years since the connection, these villages have not been benefiting from energy from this particular substation. For now, CLSG is already benefiting very few towns, particularly Kenema, Bo or Kono even the corridor villages along the Bo, Kenema, which are supposed to benefit are not benefiting. So it is not a northern thing. Most of the sub villages that are supposed to benefit, I am not sure if up to five are benefiting from this particular energy. So I want to call on the Minister of Energy, if approved to consider this also with the seriousness it deserves. Mr Speaker, like I said, it is unfair that EDSA continues to receive GST that

we are paying as Sierra Leoneans, even though the cost of energy has been so much increased exponentially. It was le5.60 cents per kilowatt hour. We are now paying 6,500 Leones per kilowatt hour. When you look at the increase, it is quite huge and you cannot compare that to running a generator. It is still better that you have reliable energy from EDSA than running a generator. Yet, people can still manage to make sure that they bear up with the effects of the cost. I should be proud as a Sierra Leonean that each time I subscribe my meter; I am paying 15% to Government. Even when Sierra Leoneans are paying 15% of GST, which is included in the cost per kilowatt hour, when they collect, they do not pay over to NRA. And that is an issue, how do you expect Government to continue to intervene in improving the efficiency of EDSA?

Mr Speaker, I want to also call on even NRA to be a little innovative in this because there are a whole lot of MDAs that are doing similar thing like the one EDSA is doing. They are collecting GST fund on behalf of NRA, but they are failing to pay over to NRA. So I am thinking that NRA should focus on technology to make sure that when once someone subscribes for energy, what belongs to NRA goes straight into whatever account system that is supposed to be deposited to rather than coming to EDSA. Technology can ensure what belongs to EDSA goes to them, and what belongs to NRA goes to NRA and that is also innovative way. On the technical losses that EDSA is always crying about I can say it is not new, that has been an old age problem, and it is not really peculiar to EDSA or the energy sector in Sierra Leone or across Africa, every nation is facing this challenge. When you go to areas like Ghana, Nigeria are also facing energy theft or technical losses. We all know how old our network system is. That is why you realize that even the energy we are getting cannot even power ACs, or other appliances in your home not that EDSA does not provide high voltage energy, but because of the old age nature of our network that has been a challenge but Mr Speaker, I am sure the MCC will come to address that. From the proposed Minister of Energy, he said 50% of Sierra Leoneans do not pay their correct EDSA rate. So if that is the case, the private sector also has the role to play. You can map the areas in the sources you have, you will know the target of what you intend to achieve. You do some bidding process; you would not turn into any loss. I am sure if is being managed by private players. After all your calculations, I am sure there will be efficiency in also the revenue collection that the current system of EDSA is facing.

Lastly Mr Speaker, the response time of EDSA has also been a challenge and most of the people that connect are not even EDSA workers. You see area boys believing to be electricians when there are problems, these are the ones that are going to our poles. We do not see EDSA like we used to see NPA by then in their trucks all over the city. When you go to Bo in fact, it used to be the highest employer in Bo Town the BKPS. We

see them all over Bo which means if there are problems, it is easy for you to call a qualified professional from EDSA to come and respond to you. But the only time you see EDSA staff, possibly, is after a problem has happened in the community, and it has taken like a week or two, and then they will come and address that problem. You have to build a trust between the customers, the people that are making you to exist. We are your kings. We are your bosses. You have to respect us, make sure that your response time is adequate and efficient enough.

On that note Mr Speaker, I know the issue of the tariff like I said, I have always mentioned about the removal of the social rank. But first, within a sector, I know it is EWRT issue, because they regulate the tariff, but because it is within the energy sector, whatever it is, we have people that have affordability issues and those people are in the rural community and that needs to be reinstated. When I look at the energy tariff structure, almost all the tariff structures across the sub region, they have that that kind of pattern. This is the comfort zone to protect the poorest of the poor if you equate them to those that have, and Mr Speaker, we have been unfair to Sierra Leoneans. Most of these people that come today to support you, they do not have ACs in their homes. Most of them, they depend on this category of energy tariff structure, which is the social rank. It tells you that if I am only using 50 kilowatts per month, this is what I should pay. It should be different from those that need 100 or 150 or 200 kilowatts per month, or maybe per week, or whatsoever. It should be different. So please, when you go back consider that category of the social rank within the energy tariff sector. On that note Mr Speaker, I want to end that there is an investment opportunity lying in Mile 91 Town that has a population of over 30,000 residents. Like I said, we have so many factories, and we are host to most agricultural projects. The President just launched the National Seed Certification Laboratory in Mile 91 and we know the energy needs of a tile factory. Most of you will be amazed that yesterday I spoke about a tile factory in Mile 91 and there are two companies that have also approached the community to also establish processing plant for tiles that tells you the potential for energy in Mile 91 community. Please, Mr Minister and all your team members that are here when you go consider Mile 91 and other towns that are in need of energy.

On that note, Honourable Members, I want to ask this Honourable House to consider the approval of this very capable, competent, this very fine and qualified Nominee whom has been considered by the President. This man is a lucky man. Imagine this office was held by the President. Do you know what it means for the President to hand over his personal responsibility? It means he has trusted you. So please, when you go do not disappoint the President and Sierra Leoneans. We are expecting much from you. We want to see that by 2030 we increase energy access from 36% to 78% and so

therefore when we come in 2028 we will just have 22% to make it 100% so that every Sierra Leonean will have access to energy.

On that note Mr Speaker, I want to again doff my hat and I believe that this Nominee can perform if he garners the support of his abled Deputies and the team that he has in the energy sector. He is blessed that he has a very young man, Mr Nonie and a very old man the other Engineer and he has a mixed brain of the old and young. If you leverage on them, then you have all what it takes to be able to deliver in the energy sector. On that note, I want to thank you and call on Colleagues to consider you. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Honourable Member for his wonderful contribution as the Secunder of the Motion. And I believe most of what he has said very educative, and it is a good opportunity that the key players in the energy sector is here and they are listening. The Secunder said, we need not to waste time, and I take it very seriously that we need not to waste time because energy is a serious issue, and if he should deliver, we need to give him time, and his time starts now. So I will take not more than one more speaker from my left minus the Chairman and then we round up. I give the Floor to the Honourable Christopher K. Vandy.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am so pleased today because square pegs are put in square holes and round pegs are put in round holes. If you are interested in development or somebody progress, you will be happy for that but before I start my debate thoroughly, I want to respond to my senior Colleague. He has said all beautiful things, but the way he ended the debate was not interesting at all. Mr Speaker, he said he wants us to do all these beautiful things today and they would take over in 2028. S.O. 2 'Babu wok Babu eat, no pain no gain, we wae they woke na we get for continue'.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have Mr Grant before us today and he has been nominated by the President. He is at our mercy whether to approve him or not. But I can give some testimonies here. You know I have been with that sector for seven years now as Chairman. Mr Speaker, I do not know my fate but for now, I will still talk in that capacity. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the energy sector is seriously challenged and let us put all other things aside, politics and the rest. We have competent people that can run that sector, depending on certain parameters put in place. I have always said in this Well, energy installation, transmission and distribution is capital intensive. And in a situation where you have a challenged economy, most times you find it difficult. We want to expand on Bumbuna One do we have the resources? No. We want

to revamp Dodo Dam do we have the resources as Government? No, but do not forget, I know you want to say something let me correct you before you say it.

THE SPEAKER: Are you responding to undertones?

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: I am not responding to undertones. I am responding to the previous speaker. Mr Speaker, we have some people that are very powerful in undertones. What I have said always in this Well and everybody can attest to that when it comes to energy related matters; President Bio has performed better than any other Presidents since independence. I have said that, and I have advanced reasons. Since independence, no Government has ever taken our home source revenue to electrify one single village in this Country. It is a Bio led Government that used home sales revenue to fix transmission and distribution network in Kabala, Kambia, Moyamba, Pujehun, Bonthe and Kailahun. But as you have said, we leave that for the debate. I know that transmission and distribution network have been fixed in those seven Districts headquarters towns. We know that very well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Grant, you have taken over as Minister of that sector. One thing I am pleased with today, Mr Speaker, I must tell you, Honourable Members, there are a lot of people in that sector that are pivotal in that sector. It has taken over six months without seeing them. I am only seeing them today. Do not misunderstand me. They have been silent. They are coming today because Mr Grant is before Parliament for approval. That tells you Mr Grant practices inclusive administration. That tells you Mr Grant is the man of the people. The former Deputy Minister, we are very good friends.

THE SPEAKER: Let me reecho the statement of the Honourable Member. Please do not leave this place and misconstrue his statement. He is talking honestly, and he is not imputing anything against anybody.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Grant you are taking over a sector where illegal connection is rampant. I am not an Electrician. I have discovered illegal connections when we went on oversight. I suppose there are certain things responsible for illegal connections; you will not get it 100% correct. I was in Turkey some two to three years back, myself and the former Minister Alhaji Kanja Sesay and we went to an area in Turkey where people are illegally connected. So it is inevitable, especially in Africa, but you have to do everything humanly possible to bring it down. We do not want EDSA to continue putting burden on our budget and that was the challenge Alhaji Kanja Sesay had before, anytime they are in a meeting with the Ministry of Finance. What EDSA is paying for electricity for Bo and Kenema, the money collected from Bo and Kenema cannot pay for

the electricity they are using in Bo and Kenema so that means we are left with no alternative Government has to subsidize. When we are in school we have public enterprise and private enterprises. Public Enterprises, these are enterprises established by Government to provide basic needs for the people. That was in those days but nowadays the modern management theory tells us there is no business whether public or private enterprises, you are supposed to maximize profit.

Mr Speaker, I had discussion with some people that have been in that sector for 12 years as contract staff for goodness sake, it is inhuman. Contract staff for 12 years what is your hope? I want to say thanks to the Chairman of EDSA. They have started taking care of those that have been in that sector for over years on contract. They are on it now, as I speak to you the other day, he gave me a rundown he did not just want to jump into it like that. He wanted to do a thorough census on it. He sent out a team. They have collected all the information he required, so he is working on it. But as I speak to you that is now in progress, a lot of them have been permanent, because if you are in an office and your job security is not guaranteed, you would do anything for you to get your daily survival but if you are fully employed, you would have your after service benefits. So Mr Board Chairman, I want to thank you for that, and you are my elder brother. I do not want to dictate to you, I want to suggest that you do it faster.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, and the other problem also last year in my debate, I said major rehabilitation on transmission and distribution network only took place in 1995. Since 1995 they were only doing minor interventions. Major rehabilitation occurred in Freetown in 1995 and after 1995 the only major rehabilitation again is the Energy Sector Utility Reform Project leading to the transmission and distribution network as said by my learned Colleague there. Even if we have 1000 megawatts seated at King Tom because King Tom is the hub for the eastern part of Freetown we will still have interrupted power supply. Is not possible because of the transmission and distribution network, is still a challenge. Mr Grant you are not coming to give us excuses. You only give us excuses in a situation where you want to work but you do not have the resources, because you cannot work if the resources are not available as well. And thank God you have very young guy as your Deputy 1, then you have another experienced Deputy 2. So you are caught in between them. So you are not coming to give us excuses.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other thing I have noticed, again as Chairman for seven years in that sector is negligence of staff. 80% of your staff are not dedicated at all. A clear example even in my own area, there was an outage for four days, you will report for them to respond to that problem, you will call until you get tired. If the

workers are really dedicated to their job, most of the outages will not last for over one hour.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Alhaji Kekurah Vandy, please give me few minutes let me recognize the following personalities in the House. Mr Beresford Thompson, Deputy Regional Chairman, Sierra Leone People's Party, Western Region. Mr Abubakarr Kamara, former Country Director, Bumbuna Phase 2, Milton Gegbai, Director General EGTC, Engineer Mohammed Marah, Head of Renewable Energy, Mr Emmanuel French, Ministry of Energy, Engineer Mohamed Wurie Barrie, Acting Director of Electricity, Ministry of Energy, Engineer Tesman Awo Egbe, Acting Director EDSA and finally, Engineer Nenneh Lebbie, Head of Lines. Please stand up so that we can see you. Engineer Nenneh Lebbie is the daughter of Honourable Deputy Chief Whip 2. You are all welcome. Honourable Member please go ahead.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Grant you have to put mechanism in place in a way that the substation heads should be put on their toes because they are responsible for most of these problems. You do not have an automated system to find a way how people will be reporting to you when there are problems in their areas.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when Mr Grant would have taken over that office, there is going to be teamwork. He has demonstrated that here and Parliament will support you to every level for you to succeed. The other thing again, when you take up that office, there have been a lot of suspension. Mr Speaker, I want to urge the Minister designates if you are approved, look into those matters. We are not saying you reinstate them. If they are supposed to be reinstated, do that one, because there is no way people are seated at the end of the month, you pay them. What are you paying them for? If you do not need their service again get rid of them but if they cannot be seated at home, and when the month ends, you pay them. There is more burden on EDSA and that is why we are going to follow up with you Mr Minister designates on the actions you will be taking. We are not saying you should reinstate them but look into their matters if they are supposed to be reinstated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the CLSG we called it rural electrifications. We have communities that have been electrified. They have their meters. We want to see those communities functioning. That is another thing again and we are going to follow up on that. If the areas are electrified, the people have meters, give them electricity. They will pay for it. That is another thing we will definitely have to follow up because I am getting report from different Districts. I spoke to the former DG, and he said they are

putting mechanisms in place to deploy staff. It getting to one year Mr Speaker, we do not want to hear that one. We are talking of energy access.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, yesterday we were discussing the Finance Bill here on 0% GST on renewable solar assets. You are very happy for that but we want to see they sell at affordable cost. That is the more the reason Government is encouraged, because Government wants them to bring the solar in the Country so people can afford it. We do not want the waiver given by the Ministry of Finance is going to be only enjoyed by the business people, because they will still bring it and make it very expensive. And one of the importers is looking at me very clearly. And I know how he used to sell now it is duty free. We will know how much he is going to sell but we appreciate you.

THE SPEAKER: Do you import solar materials?

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Whilst he was talking he was looking at my 'Bishop' and you should not talk to my 'Bishop' like that.

THE SPEAKER: And I heard the undertone of the 'Bishop' asking Honourable Kekurah Vandy to say the name of the businessman.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: I will definitely not. They may be running partnership, I suppose. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other challenge we want you to address is the seven Districts headquarters town. I do not know if Kailahun and Pujehun are enjoying electricity now. I do not know of Bonthe, Moyamba and you have to do everything humanly possible for Kabala and Kambia. Mr Speaker, his attention is to me now because I have mentioned Kambia. We are electrifying your hometown.

THE SPEAKER: When I go to Kamasasa in Tonko Limba, I will enjoy light.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: We cannot just fix transmission and distribution network generation in those areas that are not working; we do not want that to happen. That was more the reason President Bio gave instruction that we are going to take from our coffers, not World Bank money, not Africa Development Bank money, not IMF money but our own money. Mr Grant, we want next time you are here, you should tell us that Kabala, Kambia, Pujehun, Bonthe, Mattru Jong and Kailahun are up and running, that is what we want to hear from you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the previous speaker mentioned Bumbuna and Dodo. The output level of Bumbuna during the rains is 50 megawatt. But when the water level reduces, it struggles to give us six megawatts. We want to do something that throughout the year not to have less than 50 megawatt but how are you going to

do it? It is capital intensive. Government wants to lobby for private players, let them come into the sector. Let them come and invest in the sector. The economy is challenged. If we say we are going to put our money to fix the Dodo Dam Honourable Kekura Vandy will go without salary for six months and I do not want that to happen.

Mr Speaker, there are minor outages that occur in the city that can be fixed within a twinkle of an eye but it will take them three or four days before those problems are fixed. But when you tell the dog, you also have to tell the bone, because you cannot expect people to come from Falcon Bridge to go to Lumley without vehicle. You cannot expect them to ride on bike with the ladder on their shoulders. So we are also urging the management to provide logistics for the employees, maybe our next interface with you will have to look into that. I have been in that sector for seven years I know most of these problems. There are certain Engineers who are very effective; you call them at once they respond at once. I spoke to one of them, he never knew I was an Honourable Member, and he never knew I was Energy Committee Chairman but he responded to me. Mr Grant, you are taking up an office that is challenged but I know you have been in that sector. You know the dos and the don'ts, we are not going to encourage too much excuses. Maybe after one or two months you would start telling us what you have done. When Alhaji Kanja Sesay was there when I was made Chairman a summoned him with his Deputy Minister they were always scared of me.

THE SPEAKER: Let me also give a cautionary statement on that, when Ministries, Departments and Agencies are summoned to Parliament, they are not scared of us. They are respecting the dignity and prestige of Parliament.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Mr Speaker, I choose my words I also read English as well. When I invited Alhaji Kanja Sesay, his Deputy Minister, EDSA, EGTC, they were on their way when the President requested Alhaji Kanja Sesay for a meeting at State House and Alhaji Kanja Sesay told President that I have been summoned to Parliament by the Parliamentary Committee Chairman. President said, okay, go on and attend to them. That is a signal that the President himself does respect Parliament. Most times when they come to Parliament here, Alhaji Kanja Sesay and his Deputy, they used to tell me to take my Committee Members to their office to give us update on the energy sector. That is how I am well grounded. They invite us to investigate them. They invite us to caution them so the working relationship was very cordial. The Board Chairman of EDSA is a community man. He knows the game. I told you earlier that he is taking care of the Chairman, and I want the Minister also to take care of the Chairman and the Committee.

So on that note Mr Speaker, Mr Grant, we appreciate you, and we want to assure you that this House stands by you. Work with your team, and you have an experienced Chairperson. If you need this House to support you for anything, consider that done, we will support you. But please the concerns raised here, look into those concerns and most of these concerns you know them all. Once more, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to have a bite on this approval debate. And we look forward to the budget debate, where I will expand more on the good things the energy sector has done. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Honourable Member. He has taken so much of my time that I have reconsidered my position. I see the Leader is trying to seek my attention. I will give you five minutes and I will give Honourable Edwin two minutes.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I listened keenly to the Chairman of Energy, and what I listened to is exactly a handling over speech. If you are bidding farewell that is not a good one, please prepare a handling over notes.

Mr Speaker, the Chairman is saying very soon they will reach 40% and he is boasting about 40% to give them a win in 2028, we will use the remaining 60% as a place to pass to achieve our results in 2028 so do not worry. I am a bit worried. When I listened to the Chairman of Energy, he came out very clear on the economy of the State and how that is affecting the energy productivity of this nation. When I listened to the proposed Minister of Energy saying one of the things that is responsible for most of the vandalisation of EDSA materials in other parts of the provinces is because we have done connectivity and we have not powered them on. So looking at the economic challenge in the Country, I asked myself, when do we power those areas that have not been powered? I must narrow in specifically to the project in Kambia because the drama I saw on social media does not reflect the true picture of the energy situation in Kambia. Sometimes as Leaders and Politicians, we must not take the steps that render us as a laughing stock before our people. How do you go to Kambia as large as Kambia of over 35,000 houses and you only take few meters just to demonstrate and put the President in a funny position? That is ridiculing the Presidency, we are saying in Bo and Kenema, we cannot generate the much needed revenue to run the energy sector and you are repeating the same mistake in Kambia. I remember when I was called in Kambia for the first meeting, I told them, Kambia town by itself is a strategic administrative town, but the economic basket of Kambia District is under the same Chiefdom in Bamoi Luma. If you do not connect Bamoi Luma to that grid, the economic impact of running the Kambia station will be very limited. The connection was done almost two miles to Bamoi Luma, but it was sent to Kambia town, where the economic activity is basically just at the Kambia checkpoint. I remember the Paramount Chief also

echoed the same. Now we have just about very few meters in the town, we expect to run the generator, and that generator the people who have meters now should pay and we would continue running the same generator. It is a crisis in itself. The situation that was created for the President in Kambia was an ugly show. It is really an ugly show, I must repeat.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Chairman also talked about the staffing of EDSA. You know most people who are engaged in theft of EDSA materials are people who are knowledgeable in that area. And how do you expect the syndicate of stealing light to stop when you have people who have worked for you for seven to ten years without being paid? But these are the people you rely on to go and connect those houses. What they would do? They connive and they bypass the meter, send the light into the houses, and they get money because their livelihood is under questioned. We cannot do this to our Country and we expect effectiveness. These are things we know. The motivation of your staff at EDSA is very low compared to other Ministries, and these are people who risk their lives on those high tension cables, it does not warrant them to be thieves. But you are more an effective MP because you have motivation. So to the people that work on that EDSA poles should be more motivated because it is a risk. What is the insurance to their lives? If we do not speak for them they will continue to do the same thing, and we will continue to complain. You do not expect results when people are least motivated. Mr Minister, as you go please ensure your workers, those who work on those high tension cables to have a form of insurance scheme for their families. Many of them have died on those poles; and all we do is to take bags of rice and attend their funerals, at the end of the day their kids languish. They suffer and when they get seriously injured that they cannot go back to work, all we do is replacing them. What happens to their families? So that is why, when you call them immediately, you think they are being laggard but their job is 50-50, they might die in the process. They might be injured in the process. They know this is just a national service. So let us do not put them on the balance. Let us have a serious way of addressing their situation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the UNOPS project around Kambia District, the one in Mambolo is down. The one in Bamoi Loma, where I am coming from, was down for four months, and when it was put on, the Leone power is saying, my people should pay for four months when it was not on. I reported that and nothing has been done to that. And the place is still off. You cannot charge us to pay when there was no service. You cannot do that to us. I appreciate the Chairman. He talked about new areas where we are expanding electricity to the provinces, but before 2007 that was never the case even Freetown never had the opportunity. So the truth is, let us do not politicize our gains as a nation when yet still the people are not satisfied with us as Leaders. It is the

same as our political class has not met the needs of the people. All the areas you called have not been powered on. We will try the thermal situation in Lungi they are still struggling because the productivity, the input and the output do not match in terms of finances. So those areas we connected before now cannot still run because we cannot raise the revenue to run them. We have to continue to have subsidy from Government, and this is a burden on the State. I have said just for the water sector, areas where Government has spent in their monies, the things are functional and running. We can also bring private Sierra Leoneans to effectively run those areas, because sometimes they say Government is a bad businessman. But how can you be a bad businessman when your workers are not motivated? How can you be a bad businessman when the people who risk their lives do not see the benefit of what they are risking for? That is where the problem is. Mr Grant, I hope you will be a gift to this nation. Sierra Leoneans do not have patience when it comes to electricity. You know, water is more even important than electricity but Sierra Leonean can go without water. They drink whatever is available without complaining but they cannot go without electricity. We have CLSG all over the Country but even the mobile connectivity are poor. We are unable to access those opportunities to pump in direct money into the sector.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other day you talked about the Bumbuna Phase Two. I know they are part of that agreement that seems to be faulty, but even the faulty part which is the cost of energy sold to Government is still cheaper than what we are currently buying from the Karpower Ship and the timeline which is just two years is far better than any other solution that has been put on the pipeline. Your knowledge in this area is enough to produce the result but do you know what you need? You need teamwork and you need to value your staff and you need to motivate them. You need not to be the Boss in that sector and you need to be their friend. If you are a Brigadier and you stay far off and give commands, those who are in the field, they look at the risk, they do their assessment, they will listen, and they will say yes but they will not fulfill your commands. Come down a bit and speak to them and do not overshadow them. Do not let them think you are the Boss. Do not use more grammar to intimidate them. Do not be the best of speaker. Be the best of listener. Most times, people do not value their cleaners in the office, until you have a messy toilet, then you understand the importance of the cleaner. You do not know how important your driver is until you are sick and unable to drive, and your life depends on his speed to take you to the hospital. So your work is not easy, because nobody in Sierra Leone will tell you, I do not know the problem in the energy sector. Everybody has his own theory about the problems, meaning you need more people to come and work with you and have the problems solved. We will be your friends, but I will critique every other day. I am paid for that. If I do not do it, then I am paid for nothing. Count on us on the Opposition side. We want

to continue in that mode so we will know where there are crisis. We will know where there are problems. Do not be like those people who say, S.O 2 'wey them cut pole yanda na the opposition cut am.' I like what you said in the interview that the people destroying the energy infrastructures are not doing so because they want to destroy it, but because they make a living out of what they are doing. Guess what? If it is cut at Lumley, the people who are cutting it are depriving both the APC and the SLPP people in that area. So how do you politicize such evil practice on an Opposition Party?

Mr Speaker, I want to say we are all part in this. Today we talk about E-Learning, we talk about connectivity. All of these will not be effective if we do not have electricity. Let me also emphasize that you have a role to look at those mini grids the cost on our rural poor people. They cannot be paying more than what we are paying. That is a disservice to them. And when you look at some of the cost of building some of these things, believe you me as a nation, we can do them better. And we have young Sierra Leoneans, who are entrepreneurs, who you can put together as a group and have some of these mini grids in those rural communities. You must be a transformer. Let it be under your tenure as Minister that you empower a set of Sierra Leoneans who are young people, help them have the capital to start their own businesses, until we are able to run effective mini grid by our own people. Those you are bringing in as investors will not understand the problem of our people and because they will not understand and they have to change their money to foreign currency and send it overseas. We have local Sierra Leonean engineers who you can team together to run some of those plants and you would have confidence that when you retire you would have people to point at. What is painful is for you to leave this office and your phone is not useful in that sector. What will be painful is for you to exit and your staff start celebrating. I pray the President continues to sleep well and think of you well for the next two years, or else, if they bring in somebody here we will still celebrate the person and will talk good of him as if we have never known you. This Parliament has a role to play and these are constitutional mandates. We wish you well as you go. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: I give the Floor to Honourable Moses Edwin. I give you five minutes, and then we will round up.

HON. MOSES A. EDWIN: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am somehow happy because we have here in our midst the right person just like the Chairman said.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Chairman, you know he is my MP but the way he started talking he said 'somehow happy'. He is my Knight brother and he said, he is 'somehow happy'. What is the problem?

THE SPEAKER: Are you happy or not happy

HON. MOSES A. EDWIN: I am extremely happy.

THE SPEAKER: Okay.

HON. MOSES A. EDWIN: Thank you Mr Speaker. I have known Mr Cyril Grant 13 years ago and he is a selfless, astute and dedicated worker. He is one of the few that cannot allow his integrity to be dragged into mud. He is a man I have confidence in and he has worked with several Ministers in that sector, among them include Robin Coker, the then caretaker Minister, Engineer Mustapha Kargbo and Alhaji Dr Kanja Sesay. He is a man who is neither here nor there of the political divide, and he knows the issue, he was so instrumental or key in the unbundling process. I think Honourable Tamba Kellie, if he would have been here for this Sitting; he would have contributed because we were there in that process. He has exhibited himself, and he has worked unblemished for those superiors that he was serving. I have no doubt he will perform. He is not a man that can compromise his integrity. He has a situational approach to problems, and he has known the issues, so because of that, he will perform, and I have no doubt in him, because he knows the issues already. He knows the issues, and he can address the issues accordingly. So a lot of good things has been said of him. I do not want to be laboured this House. But what more that is appalling, you are taking over an entity that is mostly challenged so you need to step up. And I have no doubt in you, you will make us proud. You are no longer going to be in that capacity, but of different level. Please, do not allow to be lured into things that you have never done because you are taking over. I entreat you that you will do all the needful to bring what is lacking and to actually boost that sector. With that, I wish you well. Open your doors. Be kind to your Colleagues. It is a team work so continue in that line. Do not deviate from it for any other reasons but stay focused and deliver so that you can make us proud. You can make the President proud and by extension Sierra Leone. With that, I say I entreat every one of us Honourable Members that will speedily approve him to go to his job. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution to the debate, and I will give the Floor to the Acting Leader of the Opposition.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to lend my voice on this debate. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, usually when we are approving Presidential Nominees for them to take up their responsibilities in accordance with the will of His Excellency the President our main focus under our powers is to look on their track record. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if the Nominee before us is proving to be a rapist we will not approve him. Under the

provision of Child Marriage Act, if we have proof that your wife is an underage we will not approve you because you are guilty. If we prove that even if your wife is of age now, but at the time of marriage, she was under age, we will not approve you because you are still guilty. It forms part of your track record. Under the Anti-Corruption Act, especially the Amendment Act, if we find out that you have not declared your asset we will not approve you. Under the Larceny Act of 1916, if we prove that you have been convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty, we will not approve you. And above all, it is our responsibility to look out for a Police clearance certificate to authenticate that you have no criminal record as far as Police record is concerned. It is called track record in just a single phrase. This is not only for you, but for all future Nominees once you are appointed by the President; we will look out for all of these things before we approve you. The next will be your qualification and suitability for the role of which you have been appointed to serve. How suitable are you and how qualified are you?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, based on the Nominee track record, I have no evidence that he is guilty of any of these and I have to be true to myself if I have evidence, I will say it. I have no reason to say no under his track record, under his qualification and suitability to serve as Minister of Energy. I have gone through his resume and I have discovered the following that he had earlier served as an Executive Technical Advisor to the Ministry. He has also served as Coordinator on World Bank projects, on UNOPS solar mini grids in Moyamba District. He has also served as Project Negotiator for CLGS. He has also acted as project lead for JACA, World Bank funding projects. Based on my findings, I have no option but to just give him a specific description which the general public can understand better.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, S.O [2] 'Na crawo insai the pot, watin dae insai pot wae crawo nor sabi. Na crawo insai de Ministry of Energy'. He has been there for years. I wanted to disapprove him but I do not have evidence. Based on his qualifications except out of bad fate but if we are to be true to ourselves, I think he is okay based on his years of experience. So he knows everything and I want to thank His Excellency the President for reposing confidence in him as the Minister of Energy to replace him. So you have no option to disappoint His Excellency the President based on your years of experience and qualification. Based on your relevant qualification and your track record, you have no option to disappoint the people of this Country and His Excellency the President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Member from Bo has given his last and final speech today as Chairman of Energy Committee in the House of Parliament. The content of the speech is saying electricity issue in the Country still has some

challenges, but that one did not sadden me much but above all, he made specific reference to Dodo Dam. What Dodo Dam needs now is just mere maintenance and he said Government cannot afford now to do maintenance on the dam, if Government dares to do so, then there is a likelihood that he will go for four or five months without salary, and he is not ready to do that. I felt saddened. I received an urgent call from Dodo and this is a very serious challenge for the Nominee before us. The caller said, if the Honourable Member from Bo cannot give up his four or five months' salary to do just mere maintenance, then we are ready in 2028 to give back to APC who constructed the dam. If construction was not an issue for us how can maintenance be an issue? We can do it. They sacrificed over one-year salary to ensure that Dodo was constructed and to be true to thyself APC constructed at the expense of Government priorities including salaries. Of course, you can understand that teachers' salaries were withheld for over six or seven months, they were not paid, it is a matter of priority. Bo used to have cheaper cold water than Freetown. In terms of cold water, people used to buy cold water in Bo and carry it to Freetown.

THE SPEAKER: If you buy cold water from Bo by the time you get to Freetown it is hot.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: They put it in Coleman.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, as you have said that I am going to give that as an assignment to Engineers and by the time we finish, they would tell us the temperature in which the water will come to Freetown.

HON. DANIEL KOROMA: Maximum three hours you will reach in Freetown the water is still cold in a Coleman.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I want the Leader to be very honest with us here because the time he was talking about you cannot take three hours from Bo to Freetown because the road was so deployable.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I always say let us be true to thyself so your conscience can judge you. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have a very serious issue regarding the relationship between Ministry of Energy and colleagues' MDAs. The Honourable Member from Bo made it very clear as the longest serving Chairman of Energy in this House, that the monies collected by EDSA are never enough to run the activities of energy generation and distribution. In fact, he mentioned Kenema and Bo so based on that, I feel bad having thought that your colleague MDAs who receive allocations from the Ministry of Finance include payment of EDSA fees. Even if sometimes is paid late, but whenever it is paid the payment include

EDSA Bill but they refused to pay you. Why? Is adding salt to injury and even if they pay you, your money is not enough. So what about if they refuse to pay you? I feel sorry for EDSA. You know why? If EDSA takes a Lion heart and decides to cut off Youyi Building President Bio will cry foul even though you are legitimate because that is a political commodity. And if Youyi Building shut down for just 24 hours, this Country will crash but similarly, Youyi Building cannot operate without EDSA.

Mr Speaker, thank God the budget debate is coming, we suggested to the Minister of Finance yesterday to identify all allocations to MDAs in result of EDSA bills, and then during payment of those monies to the various MDAs, they slice yours and pay to you from source? Does it make sense? By the time you get your new Chairman on Committee of Energy, I urge you to work with that individual. In my opinion, if your monies are paid from source, it will be better for you. That is our suggestion. We highlight the problems and we provide solutions. It is left with you, if approved to take it or leave it but in my opinion, it is very important. Mr Speaker, let me inform you, there are plans now to form or constitute an MRU Parliament and once that Parliament is formed, number one goal is to ensure this CLSG that has started from Adam and Eve is concluded. This thing should have been completed by now because CLSG was our hope in this Country in terms of energy generation and distribution. It was our hope especially for the affected Districts. So please, if you are approved take this at the back of your mind always noting that we are expecting faster results from CLSG. That is an expectation from you, and it is expectation from His Excellency the President. We need to fast track that project. It will give a lasting solution to our energy problems in this Country.

Mr Speaker, there are Countries in Africa of which electricity supply is based on your card. You slot your card into the meter for electricity and if your card has top up you will get light if not no light. Your witchcraft cannot beat science and technology. What system do you have in place to ensure that you properly digitalize consumption of electricity in this Country? Even though it is prepaid now but to some extent, there is a system wherein connecting the wires illegally will be reduced because most times, these things are not done by outsiders.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, give me a minute in your time let me take a moment to recognize one of our Members of Parliament who sits in the House in a different capacity, Mrs Janet Maada Lebbie, you are welcome to your House.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mrs Janet Maada Lebbie special welcome from the people of Koinadugu and Falaba. You are most welcome to this Honourable House. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, finally I want to also talk to the Nominee for the area I

stay that for the past six months, it has little bit stable but recently for about 3 or 4 weeks it has been unstable. What magic did the President play in the past six months for the light to be stable? Can you consult him? Please consult the former Minister of Energy. He has the magic. Let him show you, after your approval today, because in the past few weeks light has not been stable and there were rampant fire incidents all over the place and even the Opposition Leader is a victim. All his properties were burnt down as a result of the fluctuation problem in the electricity but that has to be stopped. I thank you Mr Speaker, during your acknowledgement, you acknowledged Mr Marah as head of Clean Energy. I believe Clean Energy includes all solar, mini grids in Chiefdom headquarters to operate the hospitals and even to extend the facility to the surrounding houses or the villages.

Mr Speaker, there is a Chiefdom in Koinadugu District called Yani Chiefdom and they are also beneficiaries of this solar mini grid and it has gone out of operation for the past one year. That is my concern and the batteries have gone off and they are in total blackout. So please take note of that. On that note, I want to say thank you to all the previous speakers and thanks to His Excellency for appointing you. Do not let him down. Do not let the people of this Country down. Otherwise the President would have no option but to invoke his powers under Section 62 and you know what that means. I wish you well. I wish the entire House well. I wish your team well, if approved go and do exactly what you have been appointed to do. Thank you very much and may God bless us all.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Honourable Acting Leader of the Opposition for your contribution to the debate.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you very much for your contributions to this House and it is good for us to make sure that we talk about institutional memory. We have done a series of appointments since putting policies in place to make sure there is thorough Financial Management and Policy rollout and you can see we have fiscal stability. You can see there is a steady flow of the economic policies in what we are doing. For the past one year, we have seen more foreign exchange stability in the Country. I have used that one as an example, because the budgets hearing tomorrow and in that light we can discuss about the policies, if they are working or they are not working. But what we have from the assessment is that it is very clear that there is also economic stability, though we have challenges along the way. If you have to look at all of the Ministers that we have approved and appointed Board Members in this sector we can realize that we all have well knowledge of what is happening at the energy sector be it at EGTC or EDSA and other places. So we are happy, because he has realized that we can always succeed by

having people with knowledge to fix this sector. We have many challenges and we still have them in the energy sector. We did not fix it in 11 years and even before that we are trying to fix the energy sector especially light. So whatever little we do, we have to add value and ensure transparency and accountability. President Kabbah of blessed memory started working on Bumbuna and he left it at 98%, it is in the handing over note. Former President Koroma brought in the Income Electric we all know the story. Why are we still talking about electricity? Because the eleven years down the line previous administration did not fix it so today what we have in front of us is the proposed Minister of Energy. You brought in Karpower Ship and people are crying it down. The proposed Minister also cried down Karpower Ship and even in the interview, we asked him that question, he was very furious about it. We saw his emotions. We are still trying to enhance transparency, professionalism, and selfless people to put them together from the Board Chairman right down to the least man at the Ministry of Energy. Whether someone started it our business is to satisfy the consumers and there are so many challenges.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara from Kambia talked very honest that our people should not suffer and we have to make sure that people get energy and be very fair to them. We need to put bottleneck between the Government policies and private sector. If you do not want to spend much money, you have to know how to use electricity. The more you consume, the more you pay. It is simple, the more you consume, the more you pay. So talking about be fair to our people you want to use electricity you do not want to pay. How do you expect the private sector to sustain the generation? Exactly why mobile companies are making money? Mr Speaker, mobile companies you do not pay, you do not talk. You talk more, you pay more. So you use more appliances, you pay more for the consumption. Pay as you use electricity. That is why, if you do calculation in your house for domestic electrical appliances, you would realize that there are different cost based on appliances. Electric iron, water heater, refrigerator and air conditioner, they are all different in terms of burning cost.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I heard the Deputy Leader of the Opposition talked about Youyi Building that if you want to create catastrophe just go to the Youyi Building and disconnect them. Under the Ex Minister of Energy, Alhaji Kanja Sesay he was able to do some transformation and change. He gave each Ministry prepaid meters and today every Ministry has prepaid meters. So if you do not put money, you do not have electricity, so there is no need for this disconnection. So we need to make sure those issues are corrected and put in place appropriately. This is fact; you go there you can see for yourself.

Mr Speaker, for the edification of all of us on the issue of the CLSG is completely simple. It is already completed. We launched that project in Kenema, it started way back in the days of Pa Kabba of blessed memory. Former President Ernest Bai Koroma started some moves, but he did not complete it, and President Bio looked at the processes to complete the project. Everybody played his or her part so the little you get you should start to appreciate. Some took over 100 years to fix electricity in their Countries. Today, in Europe, they cannot talk about light inconsistency, but they have fixed it over 100 years ago. We are trying to fix it. The amount of energy penetration, electricity provision during the 80s and the 90s and the 2000s they are not the same. There is some amount of increment in electricity generation now, and people are actually appreciating that one. In fact, we are looking at electricity now as a human right. Everything you are dealing with has to do with electricity in this 21st Century, we are talking about the AI generation is the fourth generation. If you do not have electricity, it will be difficult for you to survive and see what you are doing. It is a very difficult situation. So for me, let us appreciate whatever little contribution that you have in terms of energy generation because it is a process.

Mr Speaker, The Dodo Dam you are talking about former President Siaka Steven built it in 1985 and President Kabba upgraded it and they brought in Big Congo and did a lot of things. The questions we ask ourselves, have we been running clear transparent and accountable administration? Have we been serious in fixing energy? Have we been really serious in trying to penetrate energy in the rural sector? This is a fair question to all of us, but what we are doing now; we are putting round peg in round holes. We are trying to fix them properly. We are putting them in appropriate position to deliver for us, because President Bio appoints people not on passport or party card but by professional output and what they have been able to do for the past years, and that is what exactly they have delivered by putting in place a system to fix the energy sector. We are doing development because we seek the interest of the people, and because they are Sierra Leoneans, they deserve to get electricity. We are not looking for voting pattern. We are looking at how we develop communities including Kambia. So far, what is the plan? 16 transformers are going to be installed in Kambia District. What they have done now under the leadership of the Chairman Andrew Kellie and his team and they have installed five transformers so far. Imagine if there was no electricity, you do not even have data on who can be connected or not. But now as you connect, they collect data. The project is ongoing. 117 consumers are now connected on the Kambia grid. My Colleague said, we should not politicize the energy sector but you have politicized it tactically and I am trying to depoliticize it. I have done the matrix so people can follow the trend so we can have a clear picture of what has been operating in the Country. President Bio seven years in governance he has given electricity to

Kambia. Even if ten people are connected there is now availability of electricity. It is a process and we do not want to make a quick fix and it comes out to be just a wishy-washy business. We want to provide sustainable, affordable and accessible electricity.

Mr Speaker, we are still in administration and we will see the connectivity in the Western Rural very soon. We are going little by little. This is something that speaks for itself. If you put generator on S.O [2] 'all man go know say na generator you get, if you put solar on all man go know because you neighbor nor go get light'. So I want to say light itself is a commodity on its own that will campaign for itself. Under the previous administration for eleven years they were not able to just fix it. So this is the way we depoliticize electricity by doing the right thing and making sure that there is availability of electricity.

Mr Speaker, the other point I want you to note is that all of us are celebrating that we want Mr Grant to take over as the Energy Minister. I see everybody around praising and dancing for him. You have contract staff for over 12 years; it is complete recipe for crisis in the administration. How are they going to survive? That is why we have too much of illegal connections. We have enough electricity our problem is the distribution pattern. We are giving contracts to people who have thermal plants, but how do you generate those electrics? There is big challenge with the grid distribution. Look out for benefits you can give to contract staff so they cannot involve into electricity theft. Electricity theft is a big crisis. People are doing illegal connections because of some of these administrative challenges we have. At EDSA you can only succeed with teamwork so we can have a better energy, a sustainable one and an affordable one.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if we support someone because of his or her professionalism or experience we should morally give support to that individual. That is why I always like the former Chairman of Energy Committee talking about extensive energy. How do we deal with energy? How do we deal with the challenges we are having now? Our behaviour has to do so much with this energy sector because people are destroying transformers that why the Minister said it is not about vandalism, it is about people involve in theft and they should be dealt with appropriately by the law. They have their own internal mechanisms how to handle these burning issues. So we believe that with your experience being with the team for a very long time and supported by your other staff members, you can succeed in fixing electricity. We are not ashamed to say economically, we are challenged because we are doing the prepaid but people have so many problems. We are fighting to stabilize our economy. It was really interesting and we appreciate the edification you gave us in understanding the energy issues. I know it is the responsibility of the President by Constitutional provision, Section 61 of the 1991 Constitution Act No. 6 to hire and fire but trust me with the level

of professionalism on paper and the way I see people talking about you, you are now at the helm of affairs. That is how we are anticipating that you have been working under the supervision of others and now you are at the helm of policy decision, you have your Board Chairman and other people you need to work with them.

Mr Speaker, Members have said so many good things about Mr Grant and do not be afraid to work with Members of Parliament. I know you have your matrix but in that matrix redesign your scale of preference even in the distribution of electricity where there are challenges. The responsive behaviour of your staff will demonstrate to the people of Sierra Leone that you mean business, but if they are callous or they are negligent, they are very sluggish in responding to issues affecting your consumers; you would find it difficult to succeed. You do not need party card to take position of such nature, just need to demonstrate like a professional person. You will see others following you because the issue of Party card is not necessary. You are not looking for those who are SLPP or APC; you are looking for Sierra Leoneans. I thank you very much for your numerous contributions and I hope we would succeed in what we are doing as a team and we would give you the necessary support. Colleagues, it is good for us to fix our own problems. When we get support, we all galvanize and speak the truth. But Mr Grant, it is good to celebrate with you but it is also good to give you necessary advice. Advice can change the narrative of our energy sector. That is what you bring to the fore, not your selfish ambitions or interests. We wish you all the best and thank you Mr Speaker for presiding over us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I therefore move that the Fourth Report excerpt of the Third Sitting of the Committee on Appointments and Public Service be adopted by the House and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

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

THE SPEAKER: Mr Cyril Grant, it is my singular honour to congratulate you on behalf of the House having gone through the thorough and heavy exercise of the Committee on Appointments and Public Service. You have been presented to the House and the House has considered that you are worthy to go and occupy the seat of Minister of Energy. Let me take this moment to remind you that Sierra Leone and Sierra Leoneans are in a hurry. We have gone through this part several times. We have known these stories several times. We have seen it written and being part of it. It is time for somebody to change the direction. It is time for somebody to change the narrative. You had the expertise of Members of Parliament who are not Engineers but they have

demonstrated the skills and knowledge of Engineers. They have told you problems that you know already because you have been in the industry for a very long time. We trust that your experience in the sector would show that His Excellency's confidence in you is not misplaced. I want to let you know that today both the Upper Gallery and the Lower Gallery are full and we have dignitaries seated around you. These people their determination is to see results. If they do not get results in time, they will turn against you. I also want to let you know that in a nation where some of us have grown, we are not old, we are still in our 40s, but we have seen and known that one of the major challenges of the energy sector is the fact that we have never been truthful to our people. We have always been adding up things, letting them feel that yet it is going to change tomorrow morning. I encourage you and entreat you to start your leadership with honesty. Let the people of this Country understand exactly for how long we are going to suffer before things change. Because if you tell them that in the next six months, there will be stable power in the Western Area, they would accept it and they will judge you by that. They will begin to engage electronic and print media that you have failed. So let them understand exactly what the problem is and what it will take for the problem to be fixed. We trust the team around you. I have known Engineer Andrew Kellie like I said, they are our mentors. They brought us into this business. Some of us, we are not destined to be in this business, but we do not know where our destiny lies but today I am seated here as Deputy Speaker because people believe in me. I wish you well. I congratulate you on behalf of the House and I know His Excellency has not misplaced his confidence. You can go Sir.

THE HOUSE STOOD AT 2:05

THE HOUSE RESUMED AT 4:15

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to expunge item VI which is Government Motion by the Minister of Transport and Aviation from the Order Paper. I so move Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any Secunder.

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: I so second Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The Motion to amend the Order Paper moved by the Acting Leader of Government Business has been carried]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, tomorrow is Budget day and let us be punctual. Let us sit before our guests enter the Well and let us pay attention whilst the Minister would be reading the Budget. It is important because he is going to set the financial policies for the next 12 months, and we must focus on the budget and pay attention for us to understand it.

ADJOURNMENT

MR SPEAKER ADJOURNED THE HOUSE TO FRIDAY, 28 NOVEMBER, 2025

AT 10:00 A.M.

THE HOUSE ROSE AT 4:20 P.M.