

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

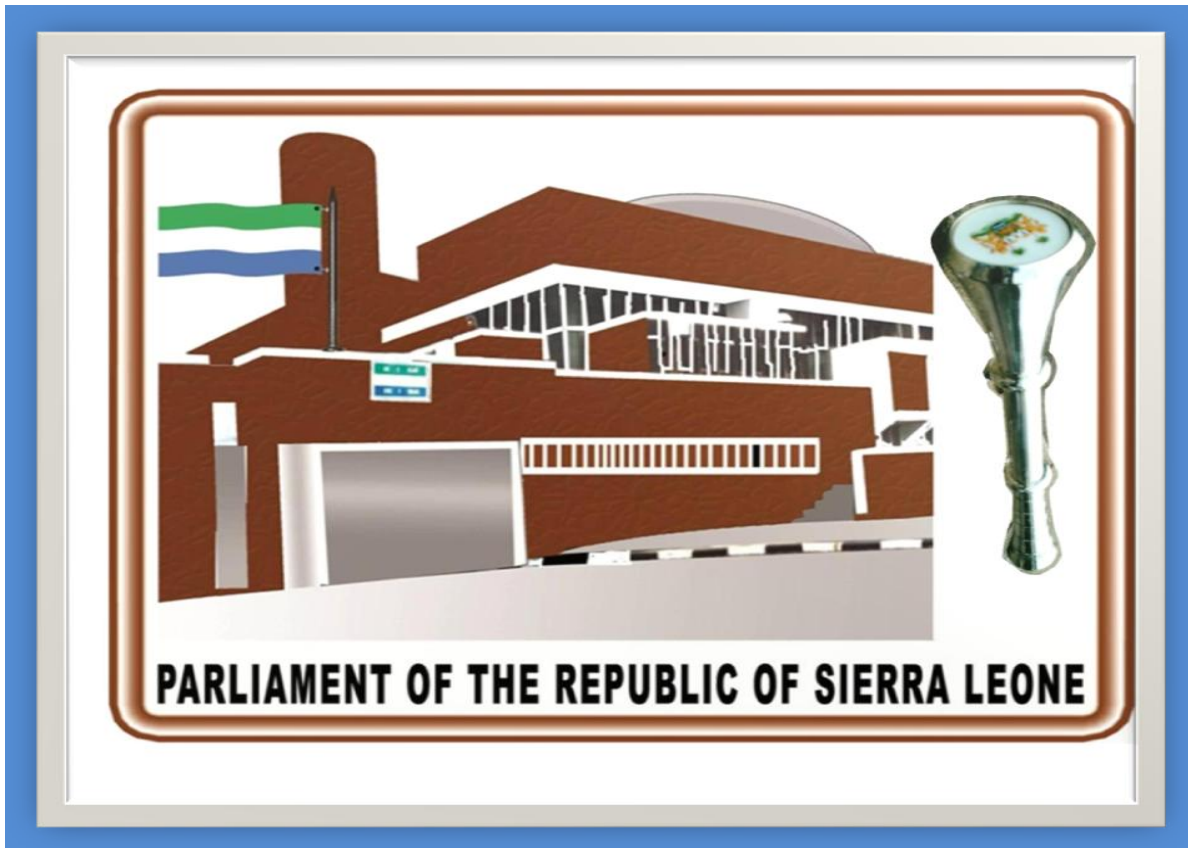
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 2025

SESSION – 2024/2025



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

TUESDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 2025.

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[I] PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 10:03 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

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

The House was called to Order

MR GILBERT N'HABAY [Deputy Clerk of Parliament]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, pursuant to Section [89] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991 in tandem with S.O 7[1] of the Standing Orders of the Parliament of Sierra Leone, this House has now formed a quorum to commence its proceedings.

Suspension of S. O. 5[2]

[II] RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THURSDAY, 16TH OCTOBER 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, record of votes and proceedings Pages 1 to 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? And page 8? Can a Member please move for we skip the adoption of vote and proceedings for Thursday 16th October, 2025?

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

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. IDRIS KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I so second.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The record of Vote and Proceedings for Thursday 16th, October 2025 has being adopted]

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

I recognize the diligence of the following Honourable Members, who are here in time today, beginning with Honourable Joseph Williams-Lamin, thank you very much for your diligence. Honourable Ibrahim Kabba, Honourable Abraham Kabba, thank you, Honourable Alpha F.M Jabbie, thank you very much, Honourable Bayoh Ali, thank you Honourable. Musa Fofana, thank you very much Honourable Quintin Salia Konneh, where is he? Thank you. Honourable Ibrahim Koroma, Honourable Rugiatu Rose Kanu thank you, Honourable Idrissa Douba thank you, Honourable Foyoh Tholley thank you, Honourable Abdul Karim Bangura thank you very much, Honourable. Mariama Ella Goba, thank you, Honourable Neneh Lebbie, thank you very much, Honourable Komba Quee yes, Honourable Abraham Aziz Bangura thank you, Honourable Beatrice Maya Kagbai thank you very much. Honourable Alpha Ben Mansaray thank you, Honourable Joseph Bash Kamara yes thank you, Honourable Alhaji Keikura C. Vandy thank you, Honourable Ishmael Sankoh Yilla thank you, Honourable Sheik Abraham Kargbo thank you, Honourable PC Haja F.B Koroma Meama Kajue thank you very much, Honourable PC Paul N. Saquee the V thank you, Honourable Jibrila Surmoijueh thank you very much, Honourable Sylvester Boima thank you, Honourable Hawa Conteh thank you, Honourable Engineer Fallah Tengbeh thank you, Honourable Alfred Thompson thank you, Honourable Tamba Kellie thank you very much, Honourable Mariama Bangura thank you, Honourable Charles O. Abdullai thank you, Honourable Princess Kadie Daramy thank you, Honourable Mohamed T. Fofana thank you. Keep it up. Mr Clerk, hold on...

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, how do you manage to get that list, because I have been in this Chamber since 9:45 a.m. and I did not hear my name on the list.

THE SPEAKER: That was the list given to me by the Clerk, what the Clerk gave to me is what I read. Mr Tony, I gave you that responsibility, why didn't you take the names of Members, who were here before I came? Stand there and talk to me, give him the mick.

MR ANTHONY CEASER KAMARA [Table Clerk]: Mr Speaker, the list was left at the door. So the list is there for them to write their names.

THE SPEAKER: I did not tell you about any door, I told you about the Chamber, not the door.

MR ANTHONY CEASER KAMARA [Table Clerk]: Sorry sir that is how I did it for today.

THE SPEAKER: So for today, I will cancel that list and I accept that all of you were here for which I congratulate you. Thank you very much; that is why I like you. So, as far as I know Tony, make sure you take all their names and make sure their names go into the record of votes and proceedings for today, thank you. We proceed.

TABLE CLERK: Swearing in of Members of Parliament, pursuant to the Third schedule of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in conformity with the provisions of the Public Elections, District Block Proportional Representation System Regulations 2022 and a letter of notification submitted to the Office of the Clerk by the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone. I hereby declare that Mohammed Shebora Bangura has been duly elected as Member of Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone. In the circumstance, Honourable Members, pursuant to Section [83] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No. 6 of 1991 in tandem with Standing Orders [1A], I hereby invite the Clerk of Parliament to administer the oath of Members of Parliament as established in the Third schedule of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991. Mr Mohamed Shebora Bangura, step forward, all Leaders step forward.

THE CLERK: Honourable Shebora Bangura subscribed to oath.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Mohamed Shebora Bangura, come back, I have not given you any seat here and stand there. Let me take this opportunity first and foremost, to welcome you to the House of Parliament. You are now a full Member of Parliament, for all be it of course, today you are the most junior Member of Parliament here, but you can learn a lot from the seniors. Of course, you have been given your Standing Orders and you have been given the National Constitution. They should be your books, read them and try to understand them. Parliament sittings start at 10:00 a.m. prompt. Please ensure that you are here exactly 10:00 a.m. or even before. I want on behalf of Parliament and my very good self; to congratulate you on your election and to heartily welcome you here. For now you will use the seat formerly occupied by the late Honourable Ernest Dura Koroma, until I determine otherwise. Thank you very much.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr speaker, before we go to the next item on the Order Paper, I did not intend to move a motion or stand on a point of order 26[1] but I am pleading with you that immediately after sitting, I want us to go down to Committee Room [1] to discuss issues affecting seriously MPs. So Mr Speaker, I need your approval on that. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Of course, approved and of course, when it comes to matters relating to the welfare of MPs, I am all for it. Honourable Members, please ensure that you are in attendance immediately after this sitting. Thank you very much Leader of Government Business, we proceed.

PAPERS LAID

A. Honourable Mathew Sahr Nyuma Leader of Government Business.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following papers;

A. Right to Access Information Commission, Sierra Leone right [SL] annual report 2024.

B. The Anti-Corruption Commission whistle blower and witness protection Regulations 2025, the Anti-Corruption Act 2008 Act No. 12 of 2008, Statutory Instrument, No. 12 of 2025.

C. 2024 Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone [ECSL] annual report.

MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSER: Hon. Matthew S. Nyuma

SECONDER: Hon. Aaron Aruna Koroma

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, in tandem with its constitutional obligations met on Monday, 27th October 2025 and interviewed fifteen Presidential nominees as administrators, board members or trustees for the following institutions:

I Two Managing Directors each for the Sierra Leone Water Company [SALWACO] and the Guma Valley Water Company respectively,

II. Two Director Generals each for the National Water Resources Management Agency and the Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission

III. Two Board Chairmen, one each for the Legal Aid Board and the Sierra Leone Railways Development Regulatory Authority,

IV. Board Members/trustees, three for the National Youths Commission, three for the National Petroleum Regulatory Authority, one for the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority and one for the Sierra Leone Roads Authority respectively.

PROCEDURE

The Committee maintained as usual its strict established procedures and interviewed the aforesaid nominees on issues pertaining to their background experience to ensure that they have the relevant education and necessary backup knowledge to lead such important offices of state. Probing questions covered wide-ranging issues relating to track records pertinent to their declared assets, tax obligations and visions for productive tenures. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also strictly looked into by the Committee.

SECOND SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE on MONDAY, 27th OCTOBER, 2025

The Committee interviewed the following nominees on oath:

I. Justice Masiyambay Bangurah, Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors-Legal Aid Board, the Honorable Justice Abdulai Masiyambay Bangurah is a household name in the judiciary of Sierra Leone with an outstanding track record of unblemished services at private and public sector levels. He will be bringing to the Legal Aid Board a wealth of legal acumen and distinguished public service records spanning from the following notable services as:

Supreme Court Judge: [2024 – Date]. Currently serving on the highest bench in the country, Justice Bangura has demonstrated judicial integrity, impartiality, and a deep commitment to the rule of law.

Chairman, Political Parties Registration Commission, PPRC [2019-2024]: In this role, he supervised the regulation and registration of political parties, promoting democratic governance and political accountability.

Deputy Minister of Justice [2018-2019]: As a senior official in the Ministry of Justice, he contributed to legal reforms, policy development, and the administration of justice across Sierra Leone. Honourable Justice Masiyambay was adjudged by Members across party line as a conscientious administrator who has suitably positioned himself to guide the Legal Aid Board at its crucial period of delivery on social disorders. His several appearances before this vetting Committee have always been moments of worthy career -growth assessment. To this, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee reaffirms its earlier bountiful commendations of trustworthiness bestowed on the renowned judge in previous reports. The Honourable Justice promised to always serve diligently in any position of trust and in the interest of the country.

II Ing. Tiideni Hawa Jabbi: Proposed Managing Director Sierra Leone Water Company [SALWACO] Ing. Tideni Hawa Jabbi is an urban water and sanitation business development expert with a fourteen-year spanning experience in the water sector. Prior

to this appointment, she contributed immensely to the success of the Sierra Leone Water Resources Management Agency as a Director that was in charge of planning, development, implementation and management of projects, research, policies, standard operating Procedures and systems to ensure the efficient and sustainable operations and management of the country's water resources. Ing Tiideni hails from the Kailahun district from the renowned humble Jabbi family of Yawei Chiefdom. She has a Master in Business Administration from the Business School of Netherlands, Buren, Netherlands in 2024, after graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering with honours from Fourah Bay College. She is adept in management information system that enabled her serve the Capital City's eminent water supply unit - the Guma Valley Water Company with excellence. She currently serves as a member of the Project Steering and Project Implementation Committees of the Freetown WASH & Aquatic Environmental Revamping Project that seeks to provide technical direction and oversight guidance for the improvement of water services in Freetown since 2019. In her response to the Committee on her vision for water quality provision for the citizenry, the engineer acknowledged there were more work to do and stressed that sustainable water supply was a function of water catchment protection and an assessment and reduction of prevailing water pollution of water sources. These, she continued hinged on health issues and have become very challenging. "I would urge for stronger policies rather than the Act for better clarifications of penalties on defaulters or abusers of water policies", she added. The Committee extols her ascendancy to SALWACO top office as the first woman ever, but admonished her to conduct an assessment on abandoned community water supply facilities lying in ruins nationwide, especially the supposedly gravity generated stations at Blama, Kambia, Mile 91etc, to revive or complete these projects. She was also informed of the proliferation of private water companies' businesses and encouraged her to work on their meaningful services, which she agreed to inquire into.

III. Mr Festus Kallay, Proposed Director General, Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission [EWRC] Mr Festus Kallay has over fifteen years of progressive experience in Accounting and Finance, Public Sector management and institutional development. This background will position him to bring financial discipline, transparency, and regulatory oversight to the EWRC, in order to ensure reliable and affordable charges calibration returns on electricity and water services across Sierra Leone. He has been a champion and a proven leader in Local Governance. He has strong passion for progressive policy reforms at national and sub national levels with focus on fairness, equity and dignity. He holds a Master of Arts in Economic Policy Management from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda in 2010 and a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Fourah Bah College, University of Sierra Leone [2005]. He

also possesses a Certificate in City Leadership Initiative from Harvard Business School, United States of America. His life at the Country's decentralization process has been notable with admiration as mentioned below:

- 2017 to date, he served the following Councils as Chief Administrator Tonkolili District Council, Freetown City Council – 2017 – 2023 Western Area Rural District Council – 2023 to date
- Prior to above appointments, he served as Finance Officer in the following Councils: Kono District Council [2007 – 2013], Moyamba District Council [2013] Port Loko District Council [2014 – 2017] Mr Kallay's approval at the Committee stage resonated interesting political pluralism for a true reward for labour; as all members agreed from the onset that his appointment was well deserved. He was encouraged to replicate his similar hard work done in the Councils in order to build an admirable consumer friendly deliveries at the water and electricity regulatory Commission.

IV. Miss Margaret Martha Kaitibie, Proposed Member, National Petroleum Regulatory Authority [NPRA] Ms Margaret Kaitibie is a gender and development specialist with strong competencies in local councils and decentralization, project management and women empowerment initiatives. As quiet but assuring personnel, she has exhibited with excellence in several job assignments as were noted thus:

- 2021-2024- Gender expert at the Sierra Leone Free Quality Education Project in the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary School Education where she advised on gender policies and mainstreaming in schools, provided technical oversights and supports of guidance and counselling in relation to Gender Based Violence [GBV].
- 2016-2021-served as gender specialist for the World Bank funded decentralization project that coordinated and implemented gender strategy and gathered supports for the overall objective of local service delivery; supporting Local Government Finance Department of the Ministry of Finance in the development and updates of database for devolved functions.
- 2010-2016 Resident Technical Facilitator Decentralized Service Delivery Project I & amp II, Bo District Council where she headed many programs including guidance, communications and documentations for efficient service deliveries. In her response to her would be contributions to NPRA, she said she was going to the NPRA with open mind set as a development specialist that would work with colleagues to chart the way forward for the Board in the pursuits of petroleum gains for the country.

V. Madam Sidnella Sallay Nawei, Proposed Member, National Youth Commission. Madam Sidnella Sallay Nawei is a renowned personality in the socio-political mix of Sierra Leone. Her appointment reflects ongoing government commitments to youth empowerment and inclusive governance agenda. Her youths' steward leadership recognition and potential speak volume when given a task to deliver. She is a dedicated activist that always yearns for good service delivery. Sidnella is a graduate of Njala University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics. Her academic journey has been marked by excellence, leadership, and a deep commitment to social impact. She has demonstrated unwavering dedication to youth empowerment through;

- Organizing community outreach programs on education, health, and civic engagement
- Advocating for girls' education and gender equality in rural communities
- Mentoring young women and promoting entrepreneurship among youth

She promised to advance the interest of youths at all times as a Member of the Youths Commission.

VI. Mr Basiru Bah, Proposed Member, National Youth Commission. Mr Bashiru Bah is a promising young man currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Law at Fourah Bay College. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 2021. Mr Basiru Bah's appointment comes at a time when the youths of this country are eager for change, opportunity, and inclusion. His appointment to the Youth Commission unlocks potential for the growth of marginalized visually impaired sector of the society. He has worked for the Communications Pillar at the National Command Centre 2015, Flood Response Mechanism at the National Stadium. Mr Basiru Bah promised to represent the youths in all spheres to bring growth to the sector.

VII. Mr Mohamed Tejan -Kellah, Proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Railways Development and Regulatory Authority. Mr Mohamed Tejan-Kellah is a distinguished professional accountant with over 25 years spanning experience in financial management, public sector reform, infrastructure finance, and public sector regulatory oversight. His nomination as Chairman of the Sierra Leone Railways Development and Regulatory Authority comes at a time in the nation's infrastructural transformation agenda, which the revitalization of the national railway sector is envisioned to be a driver of economic growth, regional integration, and sustainable development. Mr Tejan-Kellah holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Institute for Public Administration and Management [IPAM], University of Sierra Leone. His academic and professional credentials reflect a deep understanding of financial

systems, regulatory frameworks, and institutional governance. The Committee noted his exemplary performances in the following institutions he served thus:

- Finance Manager, Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation, Freetown, Sierra Leone: Where he led reforms in financial accountability and introduced performance-based budgeting.
- Finance Director, Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority: Where he supervised the restructuring of financial operations and contributed to the authority's modernization strategy.
- Accounts Manager Plan International Freetown, Sierra Leone. His work has consistently demonstrated a commitment to transparency, fiscal discipline, and institutional strengthening—qualities essential for leading a regulatory body tasked with overseeing a complex and capital-intensive sector like rail transport. In his reaction to the Challenges of executing the Railway revitalizing programs, Mr Tejan-Kellah acknowledged thus, " I am aware that tough challenges are ahead especially in executing the Act, but with collaboration with the administrative wing, the Board will share experiences and face difficulties as a united front", he concluded.

Mr Tejan- Kellah was praised for his thoroughness in previous jobs and was encouraged to emulate same in his new assignment.

VIII. Mr Josiah Paris, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA] Mr Josiah Paris is a renowned entertainment promoter, media practitioner, proprietor and current Chief Executive Officer of the Universal Radio 98.9 FM in Freetown. He is the promoter of the most popular and biggest entertainment show in Sierra Leone "Oldies de Goodies" that unite all sectors of society socially and ideologically in our pursuit of national cohesion. He has demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation in the following sectors:

- Cultural Preservation through "Oldies the Goldies," he has revived and preserved Sierra Leone's musical legacy, spotlighting artists from the 1960s to 1990s.
- Youth empowerment through exposure and mentorship of emerging youths and fostering their careers in music, broadcasting and event production.

Mr Josiah Paris embodies the spirit of Sierra Leonean creativity and resilience. At SLRA, the renowned media practitioner promised to work with colleagues -Board members to push the agenda of the institution especially in the areas of monitoring and ensuring timely project executions.

IX. Mrs Josephine Anselma Metzger, Proposed Member Board of Directors Sierra Leone Airports Authority. Mrs Josephine Metzger is a grass root politician, educationist and administrator. She has been a devoted teacher since 1984 and she is the current head teacher of Ephraim J. Robinson Municipal School, Congo Town. She also served as deputy head teacher at the Kennedy Street Municipal school for 10 years. During those years of fruitful service to humanity, she stood tall in managing complex situations and delivering clear and precise results in the preparation of future leaders. In her response to the Committee, she was confident to allude to the fact that, being an experience administrator in the classroom will serve as an impetus to support the board to deliver on their mandate at the Airports Authority.

X. Mr Ibrahim Sawanneh, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority Board. Mr Ibrahim Sawanneh is a seasoned transporter with a background in public administration and regulatory affairs. He has extensive service knowledge in governance and aviation-related fields. His Strong commitment to safety, compliance, and institutional development has imbibed in him leadership prowess in policy implementation and stakeholder engagement. In his statement before the Committee, he expressed determination to use his expertise to work jointly with other Board Members to meaningfully carry out the SLCAA's national mandate.

XI Ing. Mariwan Kallon, Proposed Managing Director, Guma Valley Water Company. Ing. Mariwan Kallon is a certified Civil Engineer and a professional procurement expert with speciality in strategy and project management with many years of experience in both public and private sector management. He has a Master of Science in Procurement, Logistics and Supply Chain Management from the University of Salford, United Kingdom and also Masters in International Construction Management and Engineering from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom in January 2025 and November 2016 respectively. Prior to this appointment, he served as Director of Planning, Technical Compliance, Monitoring & Evaluation at the Road Maintenance Fund Administration where he performed exceptionally well in roads maintenance funds utilization countrywide. In other work situations, he exhibited excellence thus:

- August 2017 and October 2019, he was Supply chain Superintendent at Sierra Rutile Limited.
- 2016 – 2017, he was Procurement Engineer, Sierra Leone Roads Authority
- From February 2013 – August 2015, he was Sierra Leone Roads Authority's International Consultant for the Smallholder Tree Crop Revitalization Support Project in Liberia.

In his response to the Committee on the future of the Guma Dam, alternative water supply from the Rokel river and private sector role in the current water crisis amongst others, the engineer said “the future of the Guma Dam is still promising but we still have a task to protect the Guma catchment from land grabbers” He continued that harnessing alternative water supply from the Rokel river to Freetown was possible but this requires serious feasibility studies and capital outlay. He acknowledged that private sector involvement in mass water provision in relation to the Guma Act would be explored whilst in addition, the limited hydrants’ locations in Freetown and provinces were noted with expressed optimism for GIS mapping of hydrant distributions for effective and emergency use of water.

He concluded that he would ensure an effective and efficient management of the Water resources through proper environmental preservation and provision of reliable and clean water supply sustainability.

XII. Mr Victor Vandy Kamara, Proposed Member, National Petroleum Regulatory Authority. Mr Victor Vandy Kamara is a business-oriented personality who has always leveraged his administrative expertise and business acumen to produce excellent results. His strategic thinking ability has always contributed to his success in the business world. He currently works at the National Assets and Government property Commission as Executive Secretary since 2020. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Njala University. From 2005 to 2012, he was President, Sierra Leone Industrial Fishing Company and also Managing Director at the Coastal Fishing Company Sierra Leone. Mr Victor Vandy Kamara promised to work with colleagues at the National Petroleum Regulatory Agency to bring to fruition the new NPRA Act through collaboration with the administration.

XIII. Mr Charles Lahai, Proposed Member, National Petroleum Regulatory Authority. Mr Charles Lahai is a social development and peace building expert with remarkable accomplishment in conflict resolution, mediation, human rights and youth empowerment. He holds a Master of Arts in Peace and Conflict studies from the European University Centre for Peace and Conflict studies from Austria. His accumulated conflict resolution, negotiation, and peacebuilding skills are increasingly valuable in regulatory and governance roles, especially in sectors prone to stakeholder tension and public scrutiny. His academic background in peace and conflict studies brings a unique lens to the NPRA board, particularly in:

- Stakeholder engagement: Navigating complex relationships between government, private sector, and civil society.

- Policy mediation: Supporting the development of fair and inclusive regulatory frameworks.
- Conflict-sensitive governance: Ensuring that petroleum sector reforms are implemented with attention to social equity and stability. From 2021 to date, he served as Director of Conflict Resolution and Management, at the National Commission for Peace and National Cohesion. And from 2017 to 2021, he was Africa Regional Director, Peace Africa Alliance Consulting, Education and Training Centre, the position he handled with credibility.

Mr Charles Lahai's appointment reflects a blend of academic and governance insight and he promised to work collaboratively with colleagues to meet NPRA's evolving mandate.

XIV Mr Lansana Koroma, Proposed Member, National Youth Commission [NYC] Mr Lansana Koroma is a fine gentleman with diverse potentials ranging from advocacy, research to policy formulation. He is a graduate of Njala University with a Bachelor of Science in Environment and Development in 2017. His field of study aligns closely with sustainable policy-making and youth-focused initiatives. This equips him with the tools to address pressing environmental challenges while fostering inclusive development strategies. His appointment to the National Youth Commission reflects the government's commitment to integrating youth voices into national development. NAYCOM, established under the National Youth Commission Act No. 11 of 2009, is tasked with empowering young people through programs that enhance their creativity, skills and leadership potential. In his response to the Committee, he assured Members that he shall be a voice to strengthen youth engagement in environmental governance, foster innovation in climate resilience strategies and build bridges between academic research and grassroots activism

XV. Ing. Pierre Palmer, Proposed Director General, National Water Resources Management Agency. Ing. Pierre Palmer is a visionary water resource expert with over 15 years spanning experience in policy reform, utility management and hydrological systems governance. He holds a Bachelor of Civil Engineering Degree with Honors from Fourah Bay College and a Master of Integrated Water Management from the University of Queensland, Australia. His appointment as the new Director General of the National Water Resources Management Agency [NWRMA] in Sierra Leone is in line with the current governance review on water situation. His civil engineering provides technical in depth knowledge in infrastructural design, hydraulic systems, and environmental engineering, all essential for water resource development and regulation. The advanced degree equips Ing. Palmer with interdisciplinary skills in hydrology, water governance,

catchment planning and climate resilience; a critical element for Sierra Leone's diverse water systems. In his response to the Committee, he reassured Members that, he will demonstrate the highest level of expertise in institutional strengthening to ensure that water resources are managed and protected in terms of Dam management, pollution control and arrears payments for water utilizations amongst others.

He promised to re-orientate the operations of the Agency through collaborative engagements with required stakeholders to meet the agenda of government.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee adjudged the following Presidential nominees to be adequately qualified for their proposed appointments and are therefore recommended to the House for approval:

I. Justice Masiyambay Bangurah, Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors-

Legal Aid Board,

II. Ing. Tiideni Hawa Jabbi: Proposed Managing Director Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO)

III. Mr. Festus Kallay, Proposed Director General, Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission (EWRC)

IV. Miss Margaret Martha Kaitibie, Proposed Member, National Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NPRA)

V. Madam Sidnella Sallay Nawei, Proposed Member, National Youth Commission

VI. Mr Basiru Bah, Proposed Member, National Youth Commission

VII. Mr Mohamed Tejan -Kellah, Proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Railways Development and Regulatory Authority

VIII. Mr Josiah Paris, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA)

IX. Mrs Josephine Anselma Metzger Proposed Member Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Airports Authority.

X. Mr. Ibrahim Sawanneh, Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Civil Aviation Authority Board

XI. Ing. Mariwan Kallon, Proposed Managing Director, Guma Valley Water Company.

XII. Mr. Victor Vandy Kamara, Proposed Member, National Petroleum Regulatory Authority

XIII. Mr. Charles Lahai, Proposed Member, National Petroleum Regulatory Authority

XIV. Mr. Lansana Koroma, Proposed Member, National Youth Commission (NYC)

XV. Ing. Pierre Palmer, Proposed Director General, National Water Resources Management Agency.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, with the aforesaid, I therefore move that the Second Report of the Third Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved, read submitted to this Honourable House by the Chairman of the Committee on Appointment, Honourable Mathew Sahr Nyuma. Thank you very much for your attention.

THE SPEAKER: Any Seconder?

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, I so second.

[Question Proposed]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before we make any progress, I wish to recognize the presence of the following dignitaries that are here with us this morning, beginning with Madam Tuma Gento Kamara, president of the Sierra Leone Bar Association. Mr Amara Kallon, the Minister of Public Administration, Madam Mrs Anne Marie Harding Deputy Commissioner General NRA and of course, the wife of the former Chairman of the SLPP and Honourable Swahilo Koroma, former Member of this House, you are welcome. Honourable Alusine Kanneh former member and whip of this House and the former Chief Immigration Officer you are welcome. Mr Elvis Enoh legal practitioner, you are welcome. Engineer Prince Mosoray, Deputy MD, Guma Valley Water Company. Where are you? You are welcome. Mr Maya Kaikai, former Minister of Local Government, you are heartily welcome. Mr Bai Mamoud Bangura, former Minister of Youth Affairs and now Flagbearer candidate, Honourable Mrs Stacy Murphy, she is a Member of the Parliament of Trinidad on the Diplomatic trip to Sierra Leone, you are heartily welcome. Mr Joe Thomas, Director of Finance RMFA you are Welcome. Mrs I.J. Kabba she is my sister and of course, the former first lady of Sierra Leon and currently Presidential advisor, you are heartily welcome. Dr Albert Ford, where are you? Yes, you are welcome. Dr Albert Ford is the Director General Sierra Leone Railways and

Development Authority. Mr Francis M. Tiffa, he is the Chief Administrator [CA] for Koinadugu District Council, you are welcome. Madam Alberta M. Barrie, where is she? She is the Finance Officer [FO] for Koinadugu District Council. Alhaji K.M. Bangura, Assistant Commissioner of Police, you are welcome. Mr Adams Tommy, the project Director Ministry of Finance, where is he? Honourable Sama Sandi Deputy Director General EWRC, where is he? His is a former reverend? I know him he is my brother; he is still Reverend properly so called. Mr Philip F. Kargbo, ESQ, Director RME, ECSL, where is he? You are welcome? Mr B. Sheriff, DCEO, RMFA, where is he? You are welcome. Thank you very much, you are all heartily welcome to the House of Parliament, the People's House. Proceed the seconder.

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like our previous boss, we have seen today again and indeed, today is a very special day, because we are having nominees that will be serving the sector that is most crucial in our daily lives, that is the water sector. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the President for acting in line with Section [61] of the 1991 Constitution, for ensuring that we create and identify not just eminent Sierra Leoneans but also take into consideration qualifications and capacity to make sure that they are nominated to serve in various positions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to zoom on few nominees that are before us here this morning. There is a saying which says on "to whom much is given, much is expected." The person of Justice Abdulai Masiyambay Bangura, has given so much to this Nation in many forms, in almost all platforms or all offices he has occupied he has been able to exemplified himself and execute the functions upon which he has been appointed in almost all what he has been doing and some of us who were fortunate to be members of the interim Government team of the All People's Congress [APC] we know exactly how he treated us, even though he was appointed by the ruling Government but in the discharge of his functions, he made sure that he served Sierra Leone and I want to thank you very much for his continuous demonstration and commitment to serving Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I made a quick research about Justice Abulai Masiyambay Bangura, even when he has just served like a year in the Judiciary Sector, but records are showing that in 2024 when he was approved by this House, he was able to crack down on 15 convictions and mostly these are convictions that were from Bonthe District. Maybe, if I can just refresh his mind, the case between Mannah Bockarrie and Musa Kargbo, who was convicted of sexual penetration, he was sentenced for 15 years and of course, there was also a case of Madiou Bendu and Alpha Ngobeh who was convicted for larceny and house breakage, they were also

sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. The list goes on, like I said, just within this while he was able to hand down about 15 convictions, just within the judicial week that they are doing in the provinces. Some of us are not surprised and that is why even though your appointments to serve as Chairman of the Board of the Legal Aid Board is also properly stated in the Act, the Legal Aid Board Act of 2012 that the Chairman has to be a Judge of the Superior Court, for which he is barely qualified. He is a Judge from the Supreme Court for which he is ably qualified, but one thing I am very much happy is the fact that he is going into a sector that connects all of us. We all know what is justice? There is a saying, which Malcom X said that "**where there is no justice, there can be no peace.**" That tells you the importance of justice.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Legal Aid Board, since when we passed the law in 2012 and when it became fully functional in 2015 this body has been one of those bodies that have really render or increased access to justice for our people, based on the report they laid some months ago, that report is accounting for about over 800,000 Sierra Leoneans that have benefited from Legal Aid Services and that is why I want to commend the head of that board, Madam Hanciles, she was appointed during the APC and she still continues to serve that sector, that is the testament of her commitments to the work which she was appointed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to again quote Section [14]2 of that Act, is clear also about how that particular Legal Aid Board is supposed to function. When you look at that Act, it tells you that paralegals were supposed to be appointed to serve every Chiefdom but this board has been constrained over time since its inception in 2015. They have just been able to employ or recruited about 71 paralegals and imagine we have about 190 Chiefdoms we still have about 119 Chiefdoms which are still without paralegals. So therefore, Mr Speaker, I want to draw this as a wakeup call for the new Chairman who is going to serve in that Board to ensure that he made sure that we have paralegals in almost all of our Chiefdoms and besides we can even make use of the lawyers we have, instead of them to be just serving other positions, maybe senior lawyers who are not even having regular cases can be posted to the Legal Aid Board to make them more active and learn from the Judiciary Sector.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like the saying goes, they say "water is life" and there is no reason why I should not start to talk about the lady that will be going to SALWACO. The reasons are clear, Mr Speaker, one because she is a daughter of one of our former colleagues, who is Honourable Bubuakie Jabbie and for all we know it could be me tomorrow, it could be even the Speaker tomorrow and so therefore she deserves to get preferential treatment in this House as well and besides she is also one of those very qualified women if not the only highly qualified woman who was paid during the

APC regime. In 2016 she was given a scholarship under the three town water supply project, she made use of that facility and today she is standing to be one of the most qualified professionals in the water sector. Therefore, we have seen her capacity before, why should we go against her? There is no reason because we are the first to believe in her as a party and that was why we capacitated her and so therefore I have confidence in her, like Michelle Obama said; "**there is no limit to what women can accomplish.**" She is going to an Agency that was growing, that was doing so well. The then Chairman of the Water Resources is here, Honourable Sallieu, he knows that SALWCO was one of the most performing MDAs during the Ernest Bai Koroma led Government but this MDA has faced serious challenges Mr Speaker, that is fact and this is more confirmed when I made an on spot visit to Blama coming from Kenema, Honourable AKK and I went on unannounced visit to Blama when we went there we saw the magnificent building, the office structure for SALWCO engulfed with grass and bush. The pipes are there just for them to be laid, so that the people of Blama can start to enjoy from water facility since 2018 to date it has been a challenge. We used to enjoy water facility in Mile 91 town but for a while now that facility is just standing there as a toy to us and many other areas like Kabala and Kambia as the case may be but like I said, I have confidence because there is no limit in the capacity of a woman. If a man can do then who was Dr Sam Bangura, may be who was older but she is younger. So, I have confidence that she has the energy and she is a woman. So, I believe that she will ensure that those projects are given serious attention, because we know what water is and how important is water and so therefore I want to call our attention to make sure that she prioritizes those projects and I am happy that the Clerk of this Committee mentioned that in the report.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Water Sector, like many other people will say we do not expect Government to be doing all investment in the Water Sector. Almost all Nations that have advanced in the management of water have done so through the unbundling of that sector, through the liberalization or the privatization of that sector. The private sector investment or involvement is key in making sure that we improve access to water for our citizens and that is what has been lacking in the sector. Mr Speaker, we are all living testament to the Energy Sector, today we have rural communities where UNOPS or other private players are rendering the energy services to our people simply because that sector was unbundled sometimes in 2015 under the Chairmanship of Sallieu that is also what we need to do to ensure that we unbundle that particular sector.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, engineer Mariwan Kallon, when I read his resume, his profile well I was very much thrive, because he is indeed very much qualified and

his qualifications are in line with Section [25]1&2 of the Guma Valley Act, because that Act does not say that one has to be a water engineer, you just need to be an engineer and you have an expertise in the management of financial resources and with all what has been read by the Leader, it is clear that he is an engineer and he has also served as a procurement specialist and a planning manager. So, that tells you that as per qualification, he is qualified.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, he is going to a sector that is also challenged. The principal source of water for the Western area which is Mile 13 or which you normally call Guma Dam was established to serve just 500,000 residents but today the residents in Western area alone has risen to almost 1,000 000 to 1,500,000 and by World Bank estimation, it is saying that population within a decade is supposed to increase to at least 2,000 000 and with the threat we are facing with our environment, we are sitting on time bomb and that is why I want to call on the attention of Mr Speaker, that as a Nation, it is high time we look beyond just the normal. In other Countries they are not even having enough rains but when you look at a simple data of rain fall in West Africa, Sierra Leone is recording the highest volume of rainfall of about 3400 millimetres per year, you talk about Liberia, which is our closest neighbour it recorded just around 3000 millimetres, when you go to Ivory Coast it recorded just around 1500 millimetres and then Ghana of course recorded between 700 to 1,500, Senegal recorded just around 585 millimetres and Mali, which is largely desert they are recording around 500 millimetres, but when you look at the access to quality water we are the least among all these Nations why? because they have innovated new methods beyond just the normal generation of water sources. Therefore, I want to call on the Government to look into how we can roll out the desalination of our sea water. In other Countries like Ghana, they have a desalination plant where they desalt the sea water and make it usable for its citizens. Mr Speaker, even in Egypt, that is what they are using when you go to UAE, of course Saudi Arabia and all UAE Countries they don't have access to fresh water they are using sea water, they desalinate it and then they make it to be purified and clean safe and affordable for their citizens. We can also do it here what we have is a comparative advantage which is better to all other Countries, is our rainfall and no Country has that in West Africa, we have 3400 millimetres of rainfall per year that is something we have to leverage on and even our topography should be an advantage.

Mr Speaker, imagine if we have Dams seated at the top of those mountains just to harvest water from rainfall, we can preserve that water and use less energy for gravity purposes in order to ensure that it serves Sierra Leoneans. So, I want to implore that when you go to that office look out for some of those innovative ways to make sure that we give water to our people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when you look at the handing over note of former President, His Excellency Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, one of the things he mentioned has been the future of water solution to Freetown which is the Rokel River. The Rokel River has a very huge potential to make sure that we curb the challenges we are now facing with our water sector. There are catchments that have been depleted; do you know how many years it takes for a tree to grow to a point that it can generate water? It takes over 10 to 15 years, sometimes even 100 years for you to get a tree to grow to a point that it can retain water for you to extract water from those particular trees you have planted. So, the immediate solution in the short run is for us to make sure that we prioritize the Rokel River. Let us don't sit as a Nation again and allow this water source to be extinct, like we are now facing with other water sources. When you ply the route between Magbaruka to Kono, we used to have two rivers, Rokel and Pampana, when some of us were in Government Secondary School for Boys, those rivers were flowing. Today; the Pampana River is gone, we have lost it to illegal mining, to unregulated mining and unfortunately most of those minings are done by foreigners, like the Ghanaians, I am not saying any bad thing but that is the reality, it is a wakeup call for us as a Nation, it is happening here, aided by our locals and enforced by Government authorities who are supposed to make sure that they protect that river. They have sat down and watch that river been washed away. So, the only river we now have is River Rokel, that river does not only host the potential for water generation, it also hosts potential for the only most reliable sources of energy. Mr Speaker, even if we want to say second phase or third phase, we rely on Bunbuna, because the volume of discharge of water in the Bunbuna is higher than almost all other rivers in the Country. That tells you it has huge potentials, let us don't sit as a Nation and watch that river to dry away.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk on Engineer Pierre, I want to carefully relate all of these employees, because they are interrelated. When you look at the National Water Resources Management Agency, this is the Agency as per the Act that is charged with the responsibility to protect, to conserve all our water catchment. It is not the responsibility of Guma, neither SALWACO, neither EPA, neither any of those Agencies, but it is the primary responsibility of this MDA to make sure that it protects, it conserves and manages all our water catchment areas. Mr Speaker, if I ask a question, very few Sierra Leoneans have heard about the existence of that MDA. That law was promulgated in 2017 it came into full force sometimes around 2018, since then very few Sierra Leoneans have heard about the existence of that particular MDA and the revelations or the evidence to what I am saying can be found in the Audit Report, the performance audit report on the management of water catchment by the National Water Resource Management Agency. They are supposed to appoint committees, which they call water catchment committee in every water source, Rokel River should have a

committee that will manage the water catchment there. Almost every river wherever there is a water source, there should be a water catchment committee. The Audit Service is saying since the creation of this MDA is just for them to form those committees and ensure that they have been in operations to date those committees have not been formed. They probably do not even know the potential they are sitting on. Mr Speaker, this MDA have the potential to be just like EPA, to just be receiving money, because it is saying that it has the power to charge levies for the extraction of water. So even when you dig a borehole, whether for industrial purposes or for private purpose, except if you want to consider political reasons to say you do not charge, it is free for the ordinary Sierra Leoneans, but Mr Speaker, today, their records show that there are companies that are paying so much to them and just 2022 they recorded **Nle2 Bill** in revenue generation but what I realized in this report they are not also making much effort, because there are requests here that are posted from those people that are so much in compliance even when they call them to come and fix meters to determine the volume, so they can appropriately make sure how much should be paid to Government the auditors are saying to date no meters have been fixed on those water sources in those communities that are already paying money to them. Even SALWACO and Guma, are supposed to be paying money to this MDA, but how could they pay if we don't conserve and protect their sources of water. So you have to make sure that you protect, you conserve by so doing, because Guma or SALWACO could have reliable access to protect their rivers, when they go there just check the meters and you charge them that is what the law says. So, I want to call on you, one thing I am confident about is that he has been within the sector, even though his predecessor was also within the sector but he was a lawyer not an engineer like him. So, you now have an opportunity when you go there to make sure that you look into all of these issues.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk on the most applauded nominee here, Mr Festus Kallay. Mr Speaker, I can say this, he is my best, the reason being is that he is the first nominee to be taken to Parliament by a Regional Chairman of the All People's Congress [APC] and a Chairman of Ward C. During the vetting process as if that was not enough, the man seated beside me here he is the Regional Chairman of the Eastern Region, Mr Maya Kaikai. He first recommended him to serve as Chief Administrator that tells you that we have a Sierra Leonean that sees no colour when it comes to the discharge of his responsibilities. So he is here today and that is what exactly we are yearning for, in fact I am not sure most of the people seated i here are from Freetown or Waterloo or Western Area and besides Mr Speaker, when you were introducing people I heard you calling the name Adams Kargbo. Mr Adams Kargbo is the Director for the Financial Decentralization of division in the Ministry of Finance, that tells you this

man is fit to serve in the position he has been nominated for. Therefore, I have no scintilla of doubt that he will perform. Mr Speaker, to be a Chief Administrator is like being a Chief Minister, because when you go to Councils, these Chief Administrators do not only manage a single Sector but they manage all devolved Sectors, they supervise Education, they supervise Health, they supervise Agriculture, they supervise Revenue and so they do everything, they are one in all. Mr Speaker, I know the kind of experience he is bringing into this Sector, I have confidence but let me draw your attention to few things that I think needs to be addressed in that Sector. We all know the challenges we are facing with the water sachet companies, they are all over our streets, they are all over our areas selling polluted water, untested water, untreated water and that is why there is always an increase in water related diseases. When you go on oversight, you will see water companies just buy a bouncer of water and then they will put it in packets without doing any purification that is what is happening in the sector you are going to it is serious. Again, as per the Act Section [13]2g of the Energy, Water Regulatory Commission Act; it says that you should seek the interest of consumers and investors but before now we have not seen MDAs seeking the interest of consumers but rather investors and that is why Sierra Leoneans are today experiencing the exponential increase in the tariff of Energy. Before 2018, it was 560 cent, it has increased to **Nle6** today imagine you can see the percentage, the gap from 6 cents, something that was not even equivalent to a Leone, today people are paying 6 Leones per kilowatt per hour, that is the testament that these people were not putting customers at the centre of those decisions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we also witnessed that just within that particular MDA, they removed the social bank. When you look at the tariff structure of energy, there was a social bank that catered for the poorest of the poor, people who do not need electricity for huge uses or whatever, they just need energy for maybe studying their kids or maybe just to watch television. It is no longer in the energy tariff sector. When I called them, they said that we will remove it and I only hope that when you go to that sector, you will bring back the social bank that will protect those people that are shouting for you. You can't satisfy all of them, you can't give them money, you can't but what you can give them will even be more than all is you revising policies that impact their lives favourably and one of those policies is to bring back the social bank tariff structure in the energy tariff system. That is the pro poor measure that was instituted by the then Government and it must stay, those are the social safety net measures that every sensitive Government should maintain.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have also very fine nominees who were appointed to serve in Youth Commission in the persons like; Mr Bashiru Bah, Mrs

Sidnella Sallay Nawei, they are all fine Sierra Leoneans in this Well, we don't see you based on your parties no, when I quoted the Constitution, I quoted Section [61] we do not have SLPP President, we have President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. That is why when you were nominated we assess you by what we expect you to do and that is what a responsible Opposition on this side always do. Mr Speaker, I want to draw these people to a few concerns which you already know that this Sector is already grappling with high use or abuse of drug substances among our youth populace in the Country. Government is making its effort whether it's enough that is something for a debate but I think we can do more to make sure that when we make proclamation, when we create Institutions, we must give them resources to function properly and again the level of acceptance of Government is also an inducement for donor to come in and support you but if you continue to say; ***S.O. [2] nah APC bring am, dis tin stat in 2014***, do you know what you are doing? You are discouraging investors to come into the Sector to help you to salvage the situation and that is not good for Governance. When Ebola struck, we fought it as a Nation, they called for declaration of a State of Emergency and it was done by the Opposition by then. The Honourable Moiwa and the Honourable Mustapha Brima, they called for the declaration of a State of Emergency and we did so again, for the declaration of a State of Emergency on Kush, our Leader was very passionate, he made sure that he pushed Government to listen and did the declaration of State of Emergency on Kush. Our Leader here of course helped the Justice Sector to even formulate the Regulations that is the demonstration of good faith on the side of Opposition. So, we are in this together, we depend on you as Commissioners that when you go there, please you have a role to play, engage those Administrators to make sure that we put measures in place that will help our youth to get rehabilitated and resettled back to society.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is no way being a son of a teacher I couldn't talk about teachers without talking about Mrs Josephine Anselma Metzger. Mr Speaker, this Mummy if I could call her this way, she is been nominated to serve as a Board Member at the Sierra Leone Airport Authority. When we asked about her experience if she has ever worked in any area like that, she said no, but we all know what teaching is, teaching is the mother of all professions. So that tells you she doesn't need to read aviation for her to be a specialist, even by her being a teacher we believe she is qualified and when you see her experience, she has taught for over 42 years. So, I think making her to serve as a Board Member is a reward for a dedicated service to this Nation. Continue to serve; your appointment is a motivation for other teachers. Please teachers we know your conditions of service are very more deplorable, you use to receive almost **\$172** that salary is today just around **\$72** but yet believe in the future that always there is something bigger for you as teachers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to conclude with the nominee going to the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation [SLCA] that is Mr Ibrahim Sawaneh, of course in the Sierra Leone Civil Aviation we are not short of professionals, that is what we are blessed with as a Nation; everything God gave us in abundance, rainfall in abundance, mineral resources in abundance what we have lacked is management and so therefore we believe that you are qualified as well that is why you are nominated and that is why you passed through the Committee on Appointment, but we all know that we are also facing serious challenges in our Aviation Sector. The cost of coming or going out of Sierra Leone is very high, we have one of the highest price of tickets in the sub region, if not in the whole world, it is very expensive, when you ask them they will tell you it is because of the aviation charges, there are so many aviation charges that they are charging which other countries are not charging. So please, when you go there, some of you will only have one opportunity as the saying goes **"Opportunity comes, but once"** if you found yourself in those MDAs you have to make sure that you do something that you will be remembered.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to call on Mr Mohamed Tejan Kallah, who will be going to serve as Chairman of the Sierra Leone Railway Development Regulatory Authority. We know that there were controversies when he was appointed, but we know based on that Act, we now have property owned by Sierra Leone, which are rail property that needs to be managed and I am sure that is why this Agency was created but that is not the expectation of Sierra Leoneans. What we expect is the resumption of railway services for private travellers. So, make sure that you create ways, go to China, go through Public Private Partnership [PPP] do some engagements it is not too big for private players to come and do feasibility studies to start it, when we come in 2028 we will implement it, we will make sure we use it fully but please because there is no way you can complete it. You can only complete the feasibility studies but you cannot complete it, Government is continuity, start it when we come we will continue it.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, lastly to the Ministry of Finance, all what I have said, even if they are determined or energized and even if they have the team to perform, if there is no money you will be challenged. Mr Speaker, there is a story that says; a \$1 investment in the Water Sector will lead to a decrease in the Health Sector by 10%, I want to repeat it; \$1 or 1% investment in the Water Sector can lead to a 10% reduction in the spending on the Health. We all know the causes of sickness, mostly they are water related. So when you fix water issues, when you give them adequate resources to provide adequate water for our people you already reduce our spending on health, you even improve learning outcomes and guess what; you can even increase Agriculture productivity because there would be water to do irrigation, to date we have

just about 1.5 metric ton per acre which is very much low because of the moisture of our soil but if we have sustainable water it can also boost production.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note, I want to again call on all my colleagues to consider these nominations before us with alacrity and ensure that they go through this House. Thank you very much and God bless us all.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the seconder have said it all. What else do you want to say? I will give preference to the Kailahun people, a Leader is up, Honourable Wuyatta Songa, let me hear you, after her, Honourable Tamba Kellie after him, who is the Chairman of Water Resources, okay the Leader after you Honourable Fofanah, then we do another round. Can we do 10 minutes each?

HON. BANADETTE WUYATTA SONGA: I want to thank you and I want to thank colleague Members of Parliament. As you said, the seconder has said it all and I don't want to repeat what he has said. Mr Speaker, I personally want to thank three people; the first one is legal B, no grammar used in this Well of Parliament, will be able to describe his work to this Nation, all we can say is thank you, Sierra Leone is proud of you and continue to do what you do best, history will always remember you. Mr Speaker, I also want to thank our teacher, Madam Josephine I do not know you, but seated here as a woman who have taught so many Members of Parliament here, including the Honourable Marray Conteh, I am sure you have done a good job. Every Member of Parliament here has gone through a teacher, teachers have to be rewarded and very often you get the reward on earth, sometimes teachers are the poorest with huge knowledge and so when we get the opportunity, we want to acknowledge you and we want to say thank you for everything you have done for so many students that have gone through you.

Mr Speaker, the third person I want to thank is Mr Festus Kallay, several times I have personally reached out to this gentleman, he is always on the other end to support the female caucus and assist us in anything that we want to do through the Council. Thank you for what you have done and I wish you well, when you go to your department we will be reaching out to you, because for my Constituency, we were at the pilot phase of mini grid and as I stand here we are struggling with electricity in Constituency 008 that is not something that we can discuss here because of time but we will be reaching out to ensure that you support us.

Mr Speaker, let me now go to business proper, I am not sure if you know that I am a Kallon, are you aware of that?

THE SPEAKER: I know you were Kallon.

HON. BANADETTE WUYATTA SONGA: I am a Kallon *S.O.* [2] *U ardly see Kallon wae nor dae do wel.*

THE SPEAKER: You think I don't know the grand old man? She is Mrs Songa Nee Kallon.

HON. BANADETTE WUYATTA SONGA: Mr Speaker, when you look at Engineer Kallon's resume, you know that there is nothing more to say as the seconder has said. This sector have been doing their best, but Mr Speaker, you are now going to see the radical transformation in this department, because we now have a focused young man, they have been appointed to oversee a sector that is crying for help. Engineer Kallon have a vast experience, a vast knowledge of what this Nation needs, I can only say I wish you well. I have no doubt I want you to perform so that your ability is not questioned, go and make all the Kallon's proud and makes Sierra Leone proud. We wish you well.

Mr Speaker, let me now come to a little sister, Kailahun's finest Tideni a very typical Mende name. Mr Speaker, I always stand and say I am glad. I was able to serve in the Constituency where my late father served as a Member of Parliament, former Honourable Member of Parliament from 007 by then Honourable M. L. Kallon [Late]. Mr Speaker, the first thing a father prays for and I know every man in this Chamber, prayed for is when you give birth to your children, you turn round and be proud of them. They take after your ability, your performance and also make the Nation proud. Dr Bubuakai Jabbie former Member of Parliament is no exception, he gave birth to fine children and Tideni is another that Kailahun is proud of. The first engineer ever occupying this position and Mr Speaker, she is from Kailahun, what does that tell you? The most educated, the finest Sierra Leoneans come from Kailahun District.

Mr Speaker, as I stand before you I am sure you will agree with me that I am no exception but today our little sister is going to make us even prouder. So the next time I stand in this Well, I would remind this Well and the Nation that I said it before and it has been demonstrated. A carefully educated young woman, there is a different of been educated and carefully educated. Mr Speaker, she is carefully educated and she is not just educated, she has got the experience that is required.

Suspension of S.O [2]

THE SPEAKER: Proceed.

HON. BANADETTE WUYATTA SONGA: Mr Speaker, Tideni have the requisite experience, when you say Tideni in the Mende, I am not sure if everybody want to hear

the meaning, but Mr Speaker, what I want to focus on is having a young woman who is focused and determined to make a change and just what we need at a point that we are in the second phase as a Government. Mr Speaker, I have no doubt that Sierra Leone is going to be proud and it's so amazing that Honourable Bubuakai Jabbie is alive to see this day. I was happy when I came to Parliament, my dad will usually sit there, and I remembered Honourable Billoh Shaw will say ***S.O.[2] U baby seater don cam.*** He will usually just sit and watch me debate which every proud father wants to see and I pray one day our own children will make us all proud. Go little sister and make us proud, make the Kailahun people even more proud.

Mr Speaker, for the purpose of our women here and as a mother of the female caucus, I want to say a line of our anthem. It says ***"women are longing to be free, no longer in the shadow, forced to stay behind, but side by side in equality. Women are marching forward and we will continue to march forward."*** We want to thank His Excellency the President for entrusting women with leadership role and I want to thank the women of Sierra Leone for making all of us proud. Let us continue to have more women surfacing so that our 30% quota will be filled, by the time we come back to this Parliament, we will be having 50% quota and we will have more women to fill that space. All the women out there today you are all wished well and we are proud of you as the Female Caucus of this Parliament and we have no doubt that you will perform. Go and make us all proud. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Tamba Kellie.

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Mr Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to make one or two comments. The previous speaker have extensively and eloquently spoken on, the qualifications and experiences of the nominees so I won't be laboured on that point, I just want to zoom on just two appointments. That of his honour, my lord, the Honourable Mr Justices Bangura on his appointment as Chairman of the legal Aid Board and that of my friend and brother Mr Festus Kallay who is going to the Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission. Mr Speaker, it will be pretentious of me to advise or even attempt to advise his honour Mr Justice Bangura as to how he should go about his job, but the one request I would make and I want his honour to take this onboard is to expand the legal aid system to cover more civil matters, whereby clients with a reasonable chance of success in their civil matters can be assisted and then part of their reward in form of remuneration for the services provided. This is how the legal aid works in England it is not just about crime, it is also been extended to the civil section. So, my lord I would want you to give serious consideration on this, because we have citizens who have very good cases but because they don't have the wherewithal

to vindicate their rights they say ***S.O. [2] ar lef me yon case to God.*** So, I implore you my lord to take that seriously on board.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as to my friend and brother going to Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission as the name suggests, you are going to a Commission whose main role is to Regulate, by the way I was the first substantive Director General of that organization. Mr Kallay regulation is about control, you are being required to control the behaviour of those actors in the Electricity and Water Sectors and the way you do it is by making rules, performance standards and standards of behaviour. Before I left, we made sure we promulgated all performance standard regulations what is lacking is enforcement. When you juxtapose the prevalence of water borned diseases in our Country and then you take the EWRC Act and read it, there is a proliferation of water suppliers and distributors in this Country, but the question is, what effective control the Standards Bureau has it is almost moribund, whether it lacks the resources or capacity, etc. but that is what you are going to encounter and the people of this Country will be looking to you to ensure that when someone is selling sachet water etc. that the water should be of good quality. I think under the MCC project there was a provision actually to bring in all the equipment within that building so that you can effectively do the job whether that has been actualized or not I don't know but that is the task you are going to face. But you can call on me anytime I will be ready to help you, my Chamber is at 49b Waterloo Street, Freetown. So, anytime you want help in terms of regulation, etc. I was one time Deputy Chairman of the ECOWAS regulatory Authority based in Ghana.

Mr Speaker, coming to the Electricity Sector, we have mini grids which is good, now we have electricity being expanded to remote areas but I took the 2020 report that was prepared for the Commission, there are lots of complaints from our people in the Rural areas, UNOPS they set up the mini grid, the mini grid is a small scale electricity generation that does not use the transmission lines but just distribution. So, you can see wires going from one house to another that is connected to the mini grid which is what the EDSA and EGTC provide. So you need to focus on that area, because one of the ways of expanding electricity to our people is via the mechanism of mini grids. We can use solar, you can use hydro, as they do in Yille, there is a mini grid there that uses water and others rely on solar. So those are the areas you should pay attention to and I have no doubt that you have the capacity, you have the knowledge and you have the management skills because that is very important in those jobs. You need to work with your team, the electricity engineer, the water engineer, everybody within that team has to come on board. So as you go to take your seat, I hope and I pray that you will succeed. As for me Lord, as I said, it is not for me to profer any advice I cannot

because of the experience, the knowledge, etc. but I want you to take on board that simple request I have made to expand the legal aid system so that our people who have meritorious cases but are not able to take them to Court because of lack of finance, then the Legal Aid Board can come in and help and say okay if you win, we are going to take maybe 60% or maybe 50% of your earnings as a remuneration for the services you have provided and that can also help the Legal Aid Board to reduce its dependence on Government.

Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I just wanted to zoom on those two areas because everything has already been said by previous speakers. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Tengbeh.

HON. FALLAH K. TENGBEH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am very happy today as an engineer to add my voice to this debate, especially to say a word or two about colleagues that I sat in class with, today we have fine men and women, they have graduated themselves from various spheres of life, ranging from expertise, education and above all, experience as depicted in their CVs. Mr Speaker, no wonder it has pleased His Excellency to appoint them, because I want to say this with ease and alacrity that they have the experiences, they have the integrity and they have the expertise to be able to run our water facilities, to run our water systems effectively.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, engineering is the backbone to nation building today President Bio, in his wisdom has appointed engineers to man the offices, for example the Guma Valley Water Company, the Sierra Leone Water Company, the National Water Resources Management Agency and also a brother, Mr Kallay that is going also to EWRC. These are very good people that the President has appointed and I want to assure the Nation that the experiences I got with people like Tideni and Pierre Palmer working in the water sector is going to provide dividend. They are going to prove being efficacious enough to man our water systems and our water agencies in this country. To you my appointees, go out there and add to President Bio's successes. When the Honourable Member, from the Opposition was debating, he said he is wishing for us to go in opposition, but now the ball is in your Court when you perform very well, when you go and man those offices, you make those offices open to the public, you deliver on your deliverables, your KPIs I tell you for free they are going to be permanently placed in Opposition.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to our brothers going to NPRA, SLRA, Youth Commission and the Sierra Leone Railways, I will not be able to zoom on you all, but I want to encourage you to make sure that we take Sierra Leone number one. Let us together develop Sierra Leone, this Country is in urgency to move forward, like I have

said for the colleagues that will be going to the engineering agencies. My advice to you, my suggestion to you would be to think smart, drive innovation into those facilities. Let us start talking about smart systems, supervisory control and data acquisition systems, commonly known as SCADA. Let us talk about programming logic controllers, where we will be able to sit in our offices and monitor our pumps out there, if you are able to sit, let us say at SALWACO and you monitor a pump that runs in Bo that will be smart enough. So that is what I will share with you as an experienced engineer with over 16 years standing, I will encourage you to think smart, because it is only smartness that is going to transform Sierra Leone to where we want to see it. Mr Speaker, I Thank you and I want to assure the Nation that these are the best people that the President has appointed and I therefore call on Honourable Members, not to waste time but to speedily approve them. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable AKK, 10 minutes please.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, being the Chairman of water resources and having almost four sectorial heads in that sector. I think it is important to speak in such an occasion. Mr Speaker, the honours of appointing and dismissing people is in the hands of the President, but I must say the road map, the road investment, the kind of steps that were taken at Guma under the then Director General, I am sure that was the right road for development and empowering Western area currently, but it is the prerogative of the President to hire and fire and therefore, he has brought in a new man in that sector. I want to say the recent conference we attended in South Africa with the erstwhile Director General was a full package of rebranding Water Sector in Western area. It is good we have that report in his handing over ceremony to the new Guma head, because that will help us as a Nation. Mr Speaker, in Western Area, the Chairman of Health Committee is out, we are still struggling with water facilities in our Health Sector. Whether it's the wash facility in almost all our health facilities within Western Area is still a challenge. As you go to Guma Valley, I am sure that should be one of the areas we need to put urgent role to ensure we scale up those facilities from Connaught to Cottage, with the exception of Emergency hospital but the entire Western Area is still challenged when it comes to wash facilities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the Regulating Agency, recently the Committee went on oversight and we went to several companies in Western Area. Mr Speaker, it will interest you that we went out with the Honourable Member, Honourable Hawa and the daughter was with us, who is a University student, from that day to date, that child has not had the gut to drink a sachet water, what she saw with her own eyes and she was asking ***S.O. [2] dis water nah yah dem dae mak am, wae wi dae drink?***

What she saw that day, I am sure she is still terrified. We lived in a society where people think water is just a common business, when you don't produce water in a conducive environment needed, you are also polluting the water and you are also creating diseases in the environment. I must say water sachet production is a major challenge and much work needs to be done. Mr Speaker, as we go into the budget, one thing I will ask for that sector to have the required manpower to do the work that is needed of them, monitoring water production is not an easy task, you go to areas like Guard Streets, Mabella, Big Wharf and even in Kroo Bay there is a water Company. Interestingly, we try as people to drink bottled water, but interestingly, when our kids go to schools, they buy sachet water, when they don't know where they are being produced. So, if we cannot protect our kids it's a problem, go to standard Bureau interestingly it's still a challenge for a period of almost four years I keep talking about Standard Bureau and today I will not say what he said, he is saying Standard Bureau is not standard. You know, we laugh over these things, but this is the truth. So, I am saying either the agency, because now the Agency is having a lab that do tests, SALWACO have a lab; you also have a lab at the Ministry. One of the challenges in that sector is the testing of the water. Imagine somebody goes for certificate once a year and it is that water that he/she produced that day that is been taken to be tested. So, throughout the year, if you produce polluted water, he has a certificate to show that the water is clean, that is all. So, you see the risk in the sector. They do not test water by batch they test water yearly and it is what they bring to Standards Bureau is what they test. Standards Bureau does not go to the factory to pick water to do testing, this is all a major risk but this is what we have and I will try not to politicize that. So, if you go to Kenema, most of the water producers do not get water from SALWACO, this is a major challenge for our sister going to SALWACO, they will tell you the water is more expensive if you buy from SALWACO, go to Bo, eight water companies are situated in one well, why? Because they cannot buy from SALWACO it's expensive. The same in Makeni, people use wells water they dig and in fact when you go to Bo, it is a hand dug well in Bo. In Bo it's a big well open with no cover, very close to the District Council ***S.O. [2] "udat get e bucket e jus dae cam bale n go produce."*** That is what is happening in Bo and we all pretend we do not see that, it is a challenge, we need to do collaboration from SALWACO to the Agency and to EWRC, as we regulate. Let us also ensure the water that goes to the market is clean. I don't want to continue to talk about one person every other day, but when somebody is a good person let the World know he is good, and that is how I talk about the Supreme Court Judge, Masiyambay, you know, he is going to a sector where he is more needed. He is somebody who has passion for Justice issues and Legal Aid Board for me no matter what we invest in Legal Aid Board, we are just investing in the right place, because the people depend on Legal Aid Board, the poor people we serve, the poor people we represent need justice and

they cannot most time afford to pay the legal consultation fees and Legal Aid Board is the answer to this. I know they have all the constraints but one of the constraints I am sure will be solved by the Supreme Court judge Masiyambay, the fact that he is going with enough experience to help the woman. If there is any woman I could celebrate in Sierra Leone, Madam Hanciles is a good example of a true leader. We will not take much of your time because even when I am here, the drums are beating, the drummers are all outside.

Mr Speaker, you know the water sector has been revitalized again with young energetic people who know the problems. I am confident with engineer going to Guma with his track record at RMFA, I am sure we will increase the lines that have been created already, the project is in place, it's just a matter of monitoring. And again for SALWACO, some of the facilities we built in the provinces, the one in Kambia specifically, if at all we can give that to private Sierra Leoneans to run and pay the money to SALWACO, it will be better than SALWACO still running this facility and they will tell you there is no fuel even when Government is supplying fuel. Sometimes as Government let us join the private sector to run them and see how we raise funds out of these institutions but when Government builds and run it is sometimes not as productive as we wish them to be, and SALWACO have most of these facilities in the rural areas but yet still when you look at productivity and what comes in as investment to Government, it is very poor. So, the private sector is needed in the water sector, look at a whole catchment area Mr Speaker, the whole of Waterloo the people are just managing with chaos. Imagine if we can have a constructive engagement with a private sector to take the entire Waterloo community what income would that bring to Government? Other Countries are using water as a means to get tax. For us, water is still a political commodity, until we take water from being a political commodity to a necessity needed by the people where we will bring private sector inside the story it will be the same year in year out, it's almost becoming monotonous on the people we campaigned to ***S.O. [2] Den wan yah nor provide water for una, wae we cam wi dae provide wata.*** These are basic things we should not be campaigning about again, let us bring the private sector inside, our people are tired, we campaigned over the same thing ***S.O. [2] wae we cam wi dae improve light, we be gee una 90% den wann ya don cam with 70%.*** Let us bring private sector and let us talk about real time policies that will develop our Country, we cannot every other day talk about the same thing.

Mr Speaker, for seven years in this Well, we have been speaking politics and yet still the same thing. You know one thing that is interesting, these things we are talking about, water, electricity, whether you politicize them or not ***S.O. [2] wae Yabu nor get light***

nah guard street, nah de same problem oda sie. The problems affect everybody when there is no water in Wilkinson Road, Mr Abu will not get water, Director will not get water, the problems are the same, and the MP will not get water. So, let us just depoliticize some of these things and put real time issues. I said it the other day when I was invited at SLRA conference, we are going to have an agreement to have road. I asked the person ***S.O. [2] Dis road wae we dae make so e get wan toll gate eh? Ee say no wi nor dae gee am toll gate, den ar say wae ee pwel in the next 20 years udat dae mak am.*** These are stacked realities we need to embrace as a country. The Bo-Tiama road was constructed 20 years ago, had there been a toll gate, from that time to now, we will have collected at least some money that will repair that road but today it's a burden on the State. These are concrete issues we need to sit as leaders and look at ourselves in the face and say, you know what? This is the way to go, but every day we politicize issue ***S.O.[2] Den don cam wit toll gate nah de people for add burden.*** That is how we see it when we go to other Nations and it works. Mr Speaker, you see why most times we don't speak on issues affecting people, because when you do people think other way. This is what we do to improve our country, we take deliberate steps as politicians to help our people and to elevate our people from poverty and these steps we take required definite political actions that we must take at a time when it is needed to be taken. Say whatever you may want; if we continue the same circle, the people will continue to blame us and I have said this over again, whether you are green or red, the people see politicians as the reason for their sufferings. So no matter the political party you belong to, this is what we must just accept and take decisive decisions to solve their problems. Mr Speaker, thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable AKK, you have made my day, no wonder your colleagues now call you the new AKK, because it is not everything we politicize, we are all being affected equally. Thank you very much. Honourable Fofana, after Honourable Fofana, Honourable Kaisamba, oh the lady, Honourable Catherine and Honourable Loloh Tongi and we round up, okay yes, Honourable Konneh, then we round up. Yes, proceed five minutes each, strictly five minutes.

HON. ABU BAKARR FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start by acknowledging Honourable Aaron A. Koroma, he has showned a true statesmanship this morning that when matters of National concern is before us in this Honourable House, we have to put politics aside. So, I want to use this opportunity to thank Honourable Aaron Koroma.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, approval of presidential nominees is one thing I am very meticulous about. At any time His Excellency, the President does an appointment

he does so genuinely in the interest of promoting the agenda for all Sierra Leoneans and this House is obliged to do due diligence in the vetting and approval of these nominees. Mr Speaker, having said that, I want to use this opportunity to thank all Members of the Committee on Appointments for thoroughly vetting these set of nominees in line with various appointments they have been appointed by His Excellency, the President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the nominees as you receive the blessings of this House, let me be hasten to remind you that you are carrying the hope and aspiration of not only His Excellency, the President, but millions of Sierra Leoneans are out there waiting to be touched by your various performances in your offices. As the drums beats today by your loved ones and families in celebration of your appointments, please bear in mind that this celebration will come to nothing if you fail to deliver. So, I implore you all to focus on delivery since the success of the administration can only materialized if you deliver and not excuses. Our role as Parliament doesn't just end after your approval, but also to perform our Oversight duties.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to use this opportunity to join colleagues to congratulate these nominees, you have been favoured by Section [153] which give His Excellency, the President, the mandate to hire and fire and that particular section have been bestowed upon you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I don't want to bore this House, all have been said by my senior colleagues but I want to make a special reference to Engineer Mariwan Kallon, Festus Kallay, Engineer Perri, Madam Tideni Jabbie to mention but few these are all Sierra Leoneans who are suitably qualified for these jobs they have been nominated for. Mr Speaker, I want to talk to colleagues on both side of the aisle for us to speedily ratify these nominees. Mr Speaker, I thank you and I thank you Honourable Members for the opportunity given to me.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Fofanah, so you see strictly five minutes, Honourable Kaisamba five minutes, you have the Floor.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to take this singular opportunity to thank His Excellency, the President, for these nominations, I know by even the report presented by the Leader of Government Business they are all qualified. Qualifications has not been the contention or the issue at all, they have been appointed and when approved by this House, they have huge responsibilities in their various offices where they will be going, I think that is the actual issue, how do they solve these problems? Because Sierra Leoneans are waiting to see that those problems are solved. For example, at the Legal

Aid Board Justice Bangura will be going there as the Board Chairman and there are issues at that institution since its creation, there are human resource issues, for example, there are financial issues. The lady used to come here during Sub-appropriation Committees before the Budgets are being passed, we know some of the challenges she has been going through, but with the experience of Justice Bangura in the legal field he will be able to work alongside the other Board Members, to resolve or to mitigate if not to remove entirely the problems and burden at that institution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the nominees going to Guma Valley and SALWACO, we know there are burning issues in those two entities and both are responsible for the supply of water in the Country. We know that the Dam is being threatened, people are cutting the trees, these are huge challenges and people are cutting the pipes. So when Engineer Mariwan Kallon, the newly appointed Director General goes there, he will be facing these challenges. How do you go around them? How do you solve those problems? You have to coordinate and work with other institutions in solving all of these problems, because some of these people who may want to build at all costs, even in the process of destroying that Dam but some are connected and so you will be fighting all of these things.

Mr Speaker, the Electricity and Water Regulatory Agency there are perennial challenges in that Institution, how do you resolve those problems? These are the things we are talking about and to all the nominees. There are no problems about qualification but believe you me, within your tenure we want to see that these problems are solved so that service delivery is being meted out to the people, because that is the essence of the very existence of those institutions.

Mr Speaker, at the Civil Aviation Authority, there are challenges, Mr Ibrahim Sawaneh has been nominated as one of the Board Members. Of course, he has been in the aviation industry for a while. He is from Kenema and my Constituent, unlike other nominees, I am pleased that he was nominated by His Excellency, the President. He is a very patient person, because I know he has been one of the strong supporters of SLPP and His Excellency the President since 2012. We came in power in 2018 and he had just been appointed. So he waited patiently, like others who will not be appointed. So you have to wait His Excellency the President, I am sure he is a very grateful person, your own nomination period will come and when he goes there, I am sure he will work with other Board Members to ensure that the correct things happen so that the aviation industry will be viable. So, these are the things when normally, nominees are presented we praise them and talk about them, but the actual situation is the jobs that they will be doing that will be beneficial to this country. Thank you so much and I wish you all well.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Kaisamba, yes Honourable Catherine Zaniab Tarawallay, you have the Floor.

HON. CATHRINE ZANIAB TARAWALLAY: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say a very big thank you to His Excellency, the President for bringing these fine nominees to this House. During vetting, we saw Sierra Leoneans that work in the length and breadth of this country and have served Sierra Leone with their hearts and their lives. So, as an Opposition MP, I keep on telling Sierra Leoneans, sometimes we need to keep off what we call the green and the red which is killing people in this country. My brother AKK said, it not everything we need to politicize, sometimes reality stand the test of time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when you talk about the Honourable Justice Abdullah Bangura Masiyambay, the name Masiyambay is not a Temne word, it's not a Limba word, it tells you he is a real Sierra Leonean coming from the far North, raised in the Eastern Region, attended the Kenema Government Secondary School, it tells you that he is a committed Sierra Leonean and he has worked fervently for Sierra Leoneans. So that is a message for other Sierra Leoneans to leave politics for we the politicians, technocrats be technocrats, you are technocrats, we are sending you to represent Sierra Leone. Represent Sierra Leone in the best interest of every Sierra Leonean, if you are green keep it for the benefit of Sierra Leoneans, if you are red just keep it for the benefit of Sierra Leone. I want to say a very big thank you to all the nominees, they performed very well during the interview process.

Mr Speaker, to the teacher, Madam we doff our hat to you, when a woman particularly, she was in the field of teaching for 42 years, still looking so beautiful, still looking so committed, we want to say thank you and she is a dear sister, a Knight of the noble Order of Saint John, we are Knights. I am a Knight, a dear sister of the Noble Order, I want to say congratulations and I salute you my dear sister. Thank you so dearly. We as Knights, we are Noble Orders and sometimes we do the needful, we do the right things for the benefit of the Church. We Catholics we value ourselves, wherever you see a sister or a brother, it's your right, your duty to give him or her, the support and we are here to support you because we know you have served the Church, you have served Sierra Leone, you have served the people. So going to the Civil Aviation means a lot, we have Catholics in this House to support her, because she has served Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, to my dear brother Mr Festus, I know him for a very long time, people keep telling me Festus resembles you Catharine, I said because we are freelance, if you hurt Catharine, she will tell you her mind and if you hurt Festus he will tell you I know

Festus Kallay when he was posted to Tonkolili District Council and Festus has been a committed servant, Mr Festus working at Waterloo Rural District Council, there was no trouble. I saw Kasho in the appointment Committee, he was the PA of the nominee, I said what? And the Chairman of the Committee said what? He said Mr Chairman, please stand up and remember what he did was to tell us the APC MPs, he told us even though he is the Regional Chairman of the Western Area, he is the PA of a nominee, it tells you there is something we call relationship, it is key in whatever we are doing. Mr Speaker, let us be committed to Sierra Leonean, the APC, the SLPP, will not take you to the grave, your relationship will send a signal for you and your relationship will stand the test of time and so that matter, we are saying a big yes for you Mr Festus, we are saying yes for all of them and for my dear daughter Tideni Jabbie, your father has been a long serving Member of Parliament, a committed one, a loving one, a dear Sierra Leonean, Bubuaka Jabbie the Honourable, if we see a Member of Parliament's son or daughter, it is our duty to support him or her. It will be the Honourable Catharine tomorrow, I have served in this House tirelessly, I have been a committed, a fearless debater in this House, so if my daughter or my son happens to come here, I know everybody will support her or him. So today, we are supporting you because of the commitment of the great Bubuaka Jabbie and Tideni being a young girl, you are going to a particular place that is very challenging. A month ago, in Makini city we went without water, I have to intervene and I have to call the people that matters in SALWACO and yesterday there is water, do the needful Tideni, visit Blama, visit Mile 91, visit Bo and visit Makeni go and see for yourself you are an engineer, be the best engineer, tell them that a woman can do it best, tell them that if we speak, we speak with our hearts, whatever we do; we do it with our hearts. So, I want to assure you that the commitment of this House, all of the women will support you, we will see you through, whether it is Tanzania or not, women are the best and we do it best.

Mr Speaker, on behalf of the women, we want to say a very big thank you to His Excellency the President for giving us women and to all the nominees. Mariwan, my brother from the House of the Generals, keep on sending messages to me, can you say something about your brother? We in the Generals we are doing things for the good of everybody; it is for the good of us all, for the general good I am saying something 'Hakuna Matata'.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my brother, Mariwan Kallon your CV is something very important to Sierra Leoneans. You have done so much for Sierra Leone, go and change Guma Valley, that entity has been something that we started changing gradually and now you are there as an expert, tell the people of Sierra Leone that you will do best, if not better but best. So, I want to say thank you very much, we want to

wish you well, behave as a technocrat that is the watch word today. Technocrats behave like technocrats, representing Sierra Leone, don't represent the SLPP, don't represent the APC, but represent your consciences for the benefit of every Sierra Leonean. Thank you and we wish you well.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Catharine Zainab Tarawallay, Honourable Lolloh Tongi, proceed.

HON. EMILIA LOLLOH TONGI: Mr Speaker, thank you very much, I would like to thank His Excellency once more, sometimes I wonder who does his research, as far as nominees are concern, each time we receive nominees in this Well, there is nothing we can do, but to just praised them and then confirm them, I wish I was the President, I would have just sent you guys straight to your offices to start work, because all of you are well qualified and I wish each and every one of you good luck and good health.

Mr Speaker, I want to zoom today on two areas, let me start with Water Resources, I think you came at the right time, I was the Deputy Chairperson of Water Resources in this Well, in the Fifth Parliament, I actually visited Guma and trust me when I arrived at the Guma, when I saw the atmosphere, when I saw the beauty of it, I said thanks to God, because not every Country is lucky enough to have what we have but unfortunately, we are destroying it. I mean, the way at which the Guma Valley vicinities is been destroyed, it is despicable, I wish I could have strong vocabulary to describe the disgraceful atmosphere of Guma today, people are encroaching Guma and charcoal burning is still going on. Engineer, I am begging you, work with Ministry of Land, because they are also responsible for what is happening there, work with them and the Judiciary, come together and do something for Sierra Leone, because the lives of our kids and the unborn are at stake if we don't take actions now. Don't listen to their shenanigans when they come to talk to you, just do what is good for Sierra Leone. When you go there, they will show you papers from lands that was given to them to build in that area. Let us do something for Sierra Leone; it is uncalled for.

Mr Speaker, secondly, let us don't just concentrate here in Freetown, let us start to think about the interior, the Constituency townships, they have wells, but let us start at least giving them wells in the interior, they are going through hell and we the Members of Parliament are paying the price, because it is extremely expensive to offer three boreholes in those areas. So, start by at least thinking about those villages, they are densely populated people but lacks water. So engineers, especially Engineer Jabbie you are a lady, you are the honey among these two men, you have the charisma, you have the knowhow, please work with them tell them what is best for us, because as a woman, our work is with water, as mothers, as wives, we work a lot with water. So,

please Engineer Jabbar do what you can, leave a legacy in that area and if you do, trust me the State House 2028 is in our pocket.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk now about National Youth Commission. All over the World there are treasures, they have mineral resources like we have here in Sierra Leone, but the best is our kids who are the youth, we are losing them. The Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara Desert are killing our kids, our youth in the World and today Kush is destroying our kids, this responsibility is ours, the Government alone cannot do it, all what the Government can do is to arrest and hand over to Judiciary and then to Pa Demba Road prison, will that stop them from taking Kush? Oh no. Would that stop Kush from coming to this Country? No. So, it is us, we, you and me, those behind the screen here today are responsible, let us be inquisitive enough to ask our people to police ourselves to make sure we are more inquisitive this time around. Try to know who is coming and going out of our Country, if not Kush will continue and I am seeing that the Government is doing very well, they have started in my Constituency, we have placards there, teachers, the Muslim Jammah, they are all been informed about this and let it be sustainable. We do things though, it will come up with force and energy and all of a sudden it dies out, this time it should not die out, please, the lives of our youth are at stake. Half of you guys over there are youth and a lot of your brothers we are losing them, engineers outside there. I saw a student from Fourah Bay College taking Kush, what is happening to us? So, let us stand up and move for this, it is our responsibility and as a mother, I think I am so much involved in this. The last time I stood up to debate on the presidential speech here, I spoke about it and I said, it's not only Government, it is us, we have to do the job, we have to be more focused and try to make sure we name and shame these people.

Mr Speaker, on that note, these are the two very important areas I actually wanted to talk about. I thank you very much and I hope we will get through it. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Lolloh Tongi, the Paramount Chief is up, Yes PC.

HON. PC DESMON M. KARGOBAI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency, the President for presenting us these highly educated nominees. The only advice I have for them is that they are here to serve this Nation, when you are approved please expect the MPs in this Parliament to be visiting your offices not because they want you to give them money, but to advise or to check on your duty whether you are performing properly.

Mr Speaker, I want to zoom this morning on Mr Charles Lahai, I know him from his childhood and we grew up together, he is a man with integrity, he is highly intelligent and discipline, he has some characters that [interception]

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Chief, thank you. At this stage, Honourable Members, please recognize the presence of lawyer Ady Marculey, he is the former Anti-Corruption Commission, he did extremely well during his term you are heartily welcome. I also recognize the presence of Mr Mohammed Kennewei Konneh, can you please stand up to be recognized, former Chairman and Chief Electoral Commissioner for the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone you are heartily welcome, proceed Chief.

HON. PC DESMOND M. KARGOBAI: Mr Lahai, has a very strong organizational development and management background, coupled with huge achievements in human rights and peace building activities at National and International levels. He has been strong civil society leader, some of us who are friends with TV saw what happened in 2023 he was continuously engaging the Presidential candidates through the media, he also worked with Commonwealth Africa region as national youth representative for Sierra Leone, Mr Lahai's personality has increased the confidence level in the community where he is coming from as a result he is now an Executive adviser to the Bo District Descendant Union [BODU] Mr Lahai is highly respected within the Kpaa Mende caucus, he is one of us, he belongs to the group of J. men, with such knowledge and skills he has, I think when he is within the petroleum sector, he will use his skills and knowledge to add value and bring development in that sector. Thank you for your audience.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Konneh and we round up.

HON. MAMOUD KAMARA: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as we evaluate our nominees before us, one thing that stands out is their strong educational background but Mr Speaker, our struggle has never been about qualifications, it has always been about belief, each Curriculum Vitae I read in this Well gives us a new hope that something might finally change but let me remind our nominees that their performances in those offices defines the credibility of this Parliament, because our people outside do not separate the Executive from Parliament when they have no water, when their basic services are not provided fail the blame does not go to the Ministries, Departments and Agencies in charge, it comes straight to their Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have barrage of nominees before us but I will circle my discussion on the nominee designated to serve as the Managing Director of Guma Valley Water Company, Engineer Mariwan Kallon. Mr Speaker, water is not

luxury, it is life itself but so many of our citizens in the Western Area, Urban are living without this basic services, although Guma is making strive in other areas but the painful truth is that several fast growing and densely populated communities like Kaniego, Upper Juba, Upper Regent Road, Malama, Kamayama, Pentagon, Gbangbanyilla and Kondi Farm remain completely disconnected from waterborne pipe network. Mr Speaker, if you go to places like Juba, Kaniego and Malama you will see the sad reality, young girls wake up as early as 4:00 a.m. roaming the streets with buckets, searching for water before they go to schools, others stay up late at night fetching water when they should be studying, others have fallen victims of abuse as a result of this services. Mr Speaker, these are not rural villages, they are part of the capital city, yet they are living without the basic services that define urban lives.

Mr Speaker, Honourable members, I urge engineer Mariwan Kallon upon approval to act where others have failed, let his leadership be remembered as the one that connect the unconnected and restore dignity where families have been suffering for years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if his leadership lead to the connection of waterborne pipes to Kanigo and the rest of other communities that I have just highlighted, certainly his leadership will not only be remembered as the Managing Director of Guma Valley Water Company but he will be remembered as a transformer of lives.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I strongly urge him to kindly act and all the nominees before us as I said earlier, our challenges has not been about qualifications, I have no iota of doubt that all of them are qualified. So, I therefore urge this Honourable House to approve your appointments.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Konneh, after Honourable Konneh, Honourable Saa Emerson Lamina and we round up.

HON. QUINTON SALIA KONNEH: Mr Speaker, thank you very much without any iota or phantasmagoria I want to speedily ask that we ratify these good nominees, so that they go to their respective offices and start their good work but again before I proceed or to add my voice to what other speakers have said, I want to quickly inform this House that if you look at the report presented by our Leader of Government Business, you will realize that just under the Water Sector, four different positions were appointed and so that means there is a problem in the Water Sector, because when you look at Guma Valley, SALWACO, Electricity and Water Regulation Commission, the National Water Resource Management Agency, these are all people who should be working together to ensure we minimize if not eradicate the water issues we are having as a Country particularly in the Western Area. So, we must know that, or they must know

that it is deliberate on the side of the President to overhaul the whole Ministry and the more reason they should know that they have not been appointed because of how they look or the academic successes they have made; they have been appointed because there is problem in their respective departments or agencies or commissions and the more reason they should go out there and work and they should also know that we have approved several people in this Chamber, before now those people are not here that is simply because they were not able to perform, they could not perform to the level where the President could appreciate them. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, so now that they are here, it is expected of them to perform, but before then, I have strong conviction for certain people, by all indications these are people I know, I mean this thing called failure is never part of them and that is with Justice Abdulai Masiyambay Bangura, commonly called Legal B. Justice Bangura is a household name and this is somebody who actually did so well in the provinces, he knows the local issues of the local people in this Country, he spent several years dispensing his duties in marginalized communities in the protectorate. So the fact that he has been appointed to work with the Legal Aid Board and if we all check the functions of the Legal Aid Board, is actually to bring justice to the local people who cannot afford and he has been doing that before now. So, if he has been appointed to go down to actually ensure that marginalized people without the resources are given the opportunity to go for litigation, then I believe he is the right man in the right place and the more reason most of the time I call him the best of all time, the greatest of all time and in Latin *maxim*, they call that "***Maximus Omnium temporum***" and that is what he is, he has always been the best of the best. So, I have no advice for him, because I know he has been performing since he was Deputy Minister of Justice and also the Chairman for Political Party Registration Commission and now he is at the highest level of the legal profession at the Supreme Court, where interpretations are done, so he knows the law, so he is not somebody to be advised he has been succeeding and he knows what to do.

Mr Speaker, secondly if you look at what has happened in the Water Sector, you will realize these are all fine nominees mostly from Kailahun. If you look at the Guma Valley, if you look at SALWACO and if you look at Mr Festus Kallay, you look at Mr Palmer, these are all very good personalities given the responsibility to minimize all of the problems in the Water Sector and for your information of this House, let me talk a little bit about Festus kallay, alias Tipao Pori, I will say deliberately I was opportuned to have grown up with him, we grew up from the same community and he has always been an academic giant over us since childhood, he studied very little but always come first, even when we were in University, some of us will spend the whole time reading, he will just use few minutes at the end of the day he will always come out as the best, one time we have made our own coup to say; what is this guy doing? We need to

search him whether he had anything in his closet. You know, at the end of the day, we started saying, are we sitting in the same class? Or is it the same lecturers that are lecturing us, because he will always beat us as if it was different lecturers that was lecturing him, but even now they consider me to be smart and I consider him to be super smart and being the Executive Director who has so much experience in managing resources, I will say that particular Commission will do well because having a finance expert as the Executive Director, I believe they have no option but to succeed. So, Mr Kallay, I know by the next time you are here, I will explain your successes, because I know you know nothing about failure. It's all about successes.

Mr Speaker, I will also talk about Mariwan Kallon and Tideni Jabbie these are all fine personalities, I want to thank you, and I know they will always perform. Please, for all of you in the Water Sector, work together and if you work together I will say you have no option but to succeed and for all other nominees here in this House because the President believes in you, you are here because we also believe in you, especially for those of you from Kailahun, you do it the Kailahun way and for all other nominees, please note that if you don't perform you will be removed. The disappointment is that they come here and we welcome them and we congratulate them but when they are being sent away, they do not come back to this House, it is good for them to come here so that we lash them so that they can stop disappointing us. I rest my case.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Konneh, you want them to come to you and to say goodbye? Honourable Saa Emerson Lamina, you have the Floor.

HON. SAA EMMERSON LAMINA: Mr Speaker, thank you for the gesture, I will prefer to deter this debate for another time. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, it makes it better. Yes, Honourable Veronica Kadie Sesay by the special leave of Mr Speaker, proceed.

HON. VERONICA KADIE SESAY: thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as the longest serving MP in this House, I think but wise to be paying lip services whenever we have nominees here, we have been seeing them coming in and out every year or every time nominated by His Excellency, the President. You see, our president is very wise, he is a very clever person, whenever he is appointing nominees, he watched the areas like technocrats, women, youths, entertainers and everybody in the society are all important, as you see these fine gentlemen here and ladies, you are all qualified and let me tell you, the 2028 we are yearning for lies in your hands, you have to prove it, you have to prove to the people of this Country that you are there and you are being nominated by His Excellency, the President and you are going to do just the best.

To the ladies, we lead others will follow, you have to give example, and you should lead by example. I have no doubt all the goodies that have been said about you, please don't disappoint us, don't disappoint his Excellency the President and let me tell you, water is life. When we talk about Water Sector, my younger sister that is going there, I have no doubt, like it is been stated here that what men can do, we the women can do it better and talking about water, we use water more often than even the men, so we rely on you people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me talk about Legal B. You know legal B is a household name, I know you can do it, that is why even when we were at the Appointment Committee you were relaxed because you know what you are there for and you know what you are going to do. I have no doubt in all these fine gentlemen and ladies that are seated there, you have a stake in this Country talking about the entertainment of Josiah Paris, I have known him for the past years and talking about entertainment he is a therapy, when you go to the oldies and goodies, you think or you remember about the old things. So, continue to do it and I know if you are there, you will do justice.

Mr Speaker, talking about Margaret Kaitibie, she is a sister from Moyamba of course, if I do not say anything here, I know she wouldn't be happy but I know you will do it, because I know your capability.

Mr Speaker, Mr Kallay, I don't know you but the accolade that we are getting please don't disappoint these people and I know you will do the best out of the rest. So just keep it up and do not disappoint these people. That is just a word of courage or advice, you have been vindicated, you know the party and we have known you for years. I know you will do justice, go and do the best you are all qualified and I want to join everybody here to say congratulations in advance. I know you are going to be approved leave to our expectations and do the needful, don't disappoint his Excellency. You are going there with the green, white and blue flag but we rely on you for 2028 to do the best. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Yes Honourable, five minutes please.

HON. LUCINDA F. KELLIE: Mr Speaker, thank you very much for given me this opportunity. I am Honourable Lucinda Finda Kellie, representing Kono District and I am happy for this opportunity to talk about a fine, gentleman here this afternoon, I have known him for quite some time, he worked in Kono District as Chief Administrator [CA] this man goes beyond political boundaries. He is a very effective worker, he loves everyone, he is a dedicated worker and he works for everyone, he is a committed worker and this person is no lesser person but Mr Festus Kallay, I have known him and

I know the President did not make mistake to choose somebody like him and I am very much aware that he will do very well in his office, because he has great experience, he has served Governments from one Administration to another and today he is here to take this big responsibility. I know with all his experiences he has gathered during the past years in all his successive work and Administrations, he is definitely going to do well in his office. Thank you, President Bio for choosing this fine gentleman.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say to the ladies we know ladies are passionate in doing their jobs, wherever women are they do their best and so I know you are not going to be a disappointment because you are definitely going to do well in your various offices. So, I wish that God give all of you wisdom, knowledge and understanding to do your jobs and for all the appointees, I want you to know before you were appointed today, God has appointed you many years ago that today you will serve in these capacities and if you are serving in these capacities, know that you are not just appointed by the President but you were appointed by God before finalizing it today here before all of us. So, I want you to know that in executing your responsibilities, know that you are not just answerable to us but you are also answerable to God, because he is the one that will see everything that we will not see. So, please work for Sierra Leone, go beyond political lines, you are representing this Nation; Sierra Leone, you are not representing political party, but you are rather representing everyone, so go and work hard and prove yourself, do more so that you will be recognized and we will be proud that we approve people in this Well of Parliament that are doing extremely well. We are not talking this on political lines, because you are serving this Nation, if you do well, you are doing it for all of us, if you do not do well all of us will suffer at the same time, because what you are going to do is going to affect this Nation positively or negatively. So please do your best and make sure you do well and I hope God will bless you, will guide you and give you the direction to work effectively, efficiently and diligently in your offices. Thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: If we have to develop as a Nation, we must make conscientious efforts to ensure that we remove some parts of the pigmentation. You know, I like when I hear Members of the Opposition urging the House to approve presidential nominees, we have to be colourless if this Nation has to develop at all. So Honourable Members, on both sides of the aisle, you have made my day today, thank you very much, you have debated as Sierra Leoneans and not as SLPP Members of Parliament or APC Members of Parliament. Thank you very much for making my day. Yes the Leader of the Opposition.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have carefully and patiently listened to all of the debaters and their various opinions on the Institutions

which appointments are made and the individuals who are appointed to serve in these Institutions, but firstly, Mr Speaker, unusually, I had wanted to address all the nominees before I go specifically to individual appointees and the offices for which they are appointed. Mr Speaker, if you carefully listened to the debaters, what has come out very clearly is the fact that there are Institutions that are financially strangulated, they don't have the prerequisite finance to ensure that they achieve their aims and objectives and there are Institutions also that need enough staff but let me put this to you and the general House, we have had Institutions that lacked funding, Institutions that do not have vehicles, institutions that do not have even money to pay their staff, but the heads of those Institutions have built more than five houses and have more than 10 personal cars in that very Institution that they cry for lacking finances. So, most of those who are appointed, regardless of the party who believed personally of aggrandising themselves than making sure that they serve the suffering masses of this Nation.

Mr Speaker, nobody will convince me that my Institution is underserved, or my Institution lack finances and that do not even reflect the way you live your life, it does not. So, I will first want to caution the appointees to ensure that they serve in their various offices with integrity and accountability. We should guide public trust at a time when the public is sceptical about us the politicians and even you the civil servants, you must ensure that you serve diligently in your offices. You should avoid any action that will suggest corrupt practice; corruption is the reason why Sierra Leone is where it is today. Sierra Leone is not a poor Country, make a comparative analysis between Sierra Leone and other sub-regional Countries, you will agree with me that the minerals we have cannot be easily found in other African Countries but when you look at what other Countries has comparatively, then we begin to blame ourselves, so to me those who are appointed to high offices if they do not stop corruption in this Country we will not move from where we are today. The Gambia they only have groundnuts and tourism, but when you compared them to Sierra Leone, you will ask yourself so many questions. There are times when we travel out of this Country, we ask ourselves the inevitable rhetoric. Did our leaders really travel? Did they see what is happening in other Countries outside Africa or even in Africa? So if you are developed more than the Institution that you are serving, then you must ask yourself several questions. I have seen some people have cried that their Institution do not have an official vehicle, they did not even have enough funding, but go and check them, ask for the number of houses they are building, my mentality was stuck one day, I have said it here countlessly that there was a time I was out of the Country, a best friend of mine went to the hospital with a son and he was asked to buy fuel for the Generator so that they can put on the oxygen for his only son, he did not have money and that was how he

lost his only son and you have people who are extorting Government; they are extorting the people's money and put it in their account, they have billions while others are dying because of lack of services, it is not good. So most people, they attract curse when they take appointments and do otherwise, ***S.O. [2] Nah dat mak som man en pikin just dae sidom ee go off*** because you owe a moral obligation to your Country.

Mr Speaker, I want to also advise them on performance and result. I am a man who believes in academia, but I similarly believe in performance and result, most of these problems that Members of Parliament have highlighted have existed since the Pope was an altar boy and we keep changing people, we keep approving people, but the problem does not change, the problem still remains. It was Reverend Dr Achibundu who said; ***"If you exist in our generation and you do not positively affect this generation you are a minus to this generation, it would have been better you never existed in this generation."*** Don't be misused, you are appointed for a reason and if you cannot change what you meet, your presence or your absence will never be felt in those Institutions. So, ask yourself, what changes would you bring to these Institutions that you are appointed to? Some of us, we only have one opportunity to serve what will the people say about us after we may have left our offices? How will posterity react to us for what we do or what we fail to do in our various offices? So try to do to your best of your ability to see how best you can use innovation, how best you can use measurable outcomes to effect some changes in your Institutions. Let your name be in the annals of your Institutions that it was during the leadership of Mr A or Mr B that we experienced these changes in this Institution, but you keep talking about one problem, one problem, if we could go back to the Hansard of Parliament and begin to read from the Second Parliament, the Third Parliament and the Fourth Parliament, when appointees are brought here for approval, most of the problems that Members of Parliament stated still exist. Why people are always appointed and they do not create the necessary changes, so you have a herculean task. Somebody last said, the battle which seemed to have ended on your appointments has resulted to another battle, which is your ability to perform in your various offices.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, transparency in resource management has also been a very serious problem for our heads of MDAs. Most times you will see the head and the deputy fighting, go and ask why are they fighting? You will come to realize that they have disagreement somewhere, yes exactly, in the sharing of mathematical formula that does not correspond, so mostly they are at loggerheads, in uncertain term should you misuse the people's fund. In fact, what has been responsible for the fact that most Institutions are crippled because of mismanagement, you think, because you are the head now, or you have been appointed by His Excellency, the President, you

should amass every wealth to yourself and your family and leave the Institution moribund? I told somebody, if I were a medical doctor and somebody comes with his only son without fuel, instead of me asking the person to go and buy fuel, I will use my own personal money to save the life, because life is so important than any amount of money that is in our account. Some people say some people are rich, if you are rich; you have billions in your accounts and you are not changing lives, you are not rich. Why are you keeping the money? So, I want to speak to your consciences today so that when you assume these offices, do not think those positions are meant for your personal aggrandizement but for the betterment of this Nation.

Mr Speaker, the other thing that is killing our institutions is lack of professionalism and partisanship. I am happy you said that we should be colourless and that is why I want to applaud the appointment of Mr Festus Kallay and the appointment of Masiyambay Bangura. On both appointments, the Opposition here has unhesitatingly lavishing praises on them, the Opposition has done that and I will tell you why? It is because, when they are serving His Excellency, the President, they did not in any way discriminate against any set of Sierra Leoneans, because of their political affiliation, they did not do it, some of you think the best way you can get promotion is to be very arrogant and aggressive against the Opposition that is not the way out and I know a good number of appointees of His Excellency the President are very friendly to Sierra Leoneans, regardless of their political affinity and that is how we expect it to work. Section [26] of our Constitution gives every Sierra Leoneans the right to choose the political party of their choice, so don't discriminate against them because of the choice they make; don't do that because one day you will leave these offices and meet them somewhere, you are in these offices to create bridges instead of building walls, Sierra Leone is a very small Country, so we should not let politics divide our small Nation, nobody should suffer because of his region, nobody should suffer because of his political affiliation, nobody should suffer because of the tribe he or she speaks, we are small, we should be one Nation.

Mr Speaker, with this caution, I want to look properly at the appointment of the proposed Board Chairman of the Legal Aid Board that is the Justice, Masiyambay Bangura. Firstly, the Legal Aid Board is a Statutory body responsible for providing free legal representation for citizens who cannot afford private legal service and the appointment of Mr Bangura there is not a mistake. I worked closely with him when I had the opportunity to superintend over the Secretariat of the All People's Congress as the secretary of the party for nine months whilst he was serving as the head of PPRC. One thing I would say unhesitatingly, that he is bold to say the truth to your face, if this is not working, he will tell you that this is against my principle, this is against the law

and I cannot do this, but if it is your right he will say again, this is your right, I will stand by you and I will ensure that you achieve it. It is difficult to come across Sierra Leoneans of his nature but amidst the role of the Legal Aid Board, which is to provide legal representation for citizens who cannot afford private legal services, there are challenges.

Mr Speaker, firstly, there is a perennial problem of lack of funding for the Legal Aid Board and because of this lack of funding, they have not been able to cover the entire country and we have a good number of Sierra Leoneans who are suffering injustices and do not have the money for legal representation. So, the only way we can help to send them is when we make sure that the Legal Aid Board is represented in every district and every region of this Country and that can't be achieved without the prerequisite funding. That is why I still want to appeal that as we approach the budget exercises let us ensure that appropriate funding is made for the Legal Aid Board, because of lack of funding they have not been able to sustain lawyers, barristers and solicitors, they have not been able to sustain them; because they don't have the money to retain them, they don't have the money to pay them, so they have limited number. What is most shocking about the Legal Aid Board is that we have a good number of our Sierra Leoneans populace who do not know the functions of the Legal Aid Board. So there should be public engagement, there should be civic engagement on the functions of the Legal Aid Board, so that our people will begin to go for the services of the Legal Aid Board and also there should be a coordination in the Justice delivery chain that is the Police, Prisons and the Court, with that coordination; then the Legal Aid Board will be able to ensure that they look at the cases of vulnerable Sierra Leoneans. Mr Speaker, what will surprise you here today is to note that a good number of the appointees were my classmates at Fourah Bay College, we read engineering together, we sat in the same class, our shadows darkened the same classroom and today, I am proud that they have been appointed and elevated. I think most of us separated when we went to year three, where you choose your discipline, whether you want to be an electrical and electronics engineer or you want to be a civil engineer. So, I know them and what is interesting about the appointments is that they are young people. When a young man or a young woman is appointed to a responsible position, you must serve judiciously, because you have a very long time to live and see your legacies, if your legacies are bad, your memories will never set you free but if they are good you will be proud of yourself and you will be proud to sit anywhere to say; this is what I did when I had the opportunity to serve in this office.

Mr Speaker, I will therefore go to Engineer Tideni Hawa Jabbie, the proposed Managing Director for the Sierra Leone Water Company [SALWACO]. Of course, we all know the

responsibility of SALWACO which is to manage the water supply services outside the capital city in provincial and rural areas; they play a significant role in ensuring that they expand accessibility to clean and safe drinking water, especially in underserved communities. I want you to take a book and pen and record the handling over notes you will meet in your various appointment areas and ensure that when you are handing over, there is a big difference between what you met and what you are handed over, if you hand over the same thing you met, it means you did not do anything. In Newtons motion second law, which states that the acceleration an object depends directly on the net force acting it and inversely on its mess. So, if you want to continue your state of rest in the Institution or uniform motion in the Institution and don't apply that external force, then you want yourself to be blamed at the end of the day. Always do something different from what you met, always bring in innovation and you should always have a pointer. That is why, when some people are relieved of certain offices people will say; ***S.O.[2] bra wi don mis dis man oh, or we don mis dis woman***, you should have something that the public will miss you for, if you don't have now; try to find one before you assume your role in these offices. We know that the pipes SALWACO is using are all aging, they have been connected since those days and what is disappointing to note is the fact that because the facility are aging, the water itself mostly is exposed to contamination. Let us ensure that we do something about that, when he was talking the Whip of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition II Honourable Aaron Aruna, Koroma and Honourable AKK, spoke about the importance of clean and pure drinking water, the effect it has on the health of Sierra Leoneans. I don't want to re-echo what they have already stated, but you have to do a lot to ensure that we stabilize our water supply system in our rural communities.

Mr Speaker, what I have also noted is that the water system makes very low revenue for Government; we have also stated here that there are even places where there are no meters, people just fetch water as they want and when you go to other places, you see the amount of water wastage in the streets. I want to believe that this institution should be reorganized in the way that they begin to make revenue to take care of the expenses they incur by ensuring that they have production. So, this should serve as a food for thought, for you.

Mr Speaker, I will go to the proposed Director General, Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission who is Mr Festus Kallay. From the Committee Stage to now we have seen the bipartisan support for you; it will shock you to note that Mr Speaker, to intimidate us the Opposition on the panel, the Regional Chairman for the All People's Congress, had to carry the bag of Mr Kallay in our faces to ensure no Opposition opposes the appointment of Mr Kallay, that was a perfect intimidation

strategy used by Mr Kallay and the Chairman didn't even sit at the back, he sat in front watching his Members of Parliament, if they will go against the bag he has carried and I cautioned all Opposition Members, before the interview that if you do it, you do it at your peril but on a serious note that shows that regardless of the fact that he is serving this government, he has friends on the other side, most of you who are appointed in these offices, we went to college together and we sat in the same class together, just because you have opportunity now, you are pretending as if others in other political parties are enemies to you, search your consciences power is not forever, you will leave this seat one day, use it to make friends ***S.O. [2] Salone nah smul contry, wi all nah one nah dis contry***, one country, one people; or wayie or Saie. ***S.O. [2] we ade tok nor more some SLPP MPs dem sabbie respond or saie oh, leh ee nr be oh.*** So, on a very serious note, when you are appointed into any position, don't make enemies, Sierra Leone is a small Country, I can boastfully say I have friends in the SLPP, I have very close friends in the SLPP. I could remember when he was serving as the Managing Director for SALWACO my brother there Mr Munda, had to leave Port Loko and rush to Kafu Bullom to supply water to my people during lockdown, he did it and do you think I will easily forget what he did? I will not; I am not an ungrateful person, I will not. So, when you go to these offices serve Sierra Leoneans and make sure you create the prerequisite change we are looking for as a Nation.

Mr Kallay, you have enormous work to do, but I don't doubt your ability, I don't doubt your human relation and I trust every bit of the qualities you possess and you have demonstrated over time, this has not been your first appointment, the mere fact that you have accelerated from another appointment to this one and I see a conglomeration of the Opposition coming here to support you that has demonstrated the fact that you are a force to reckon with. Use some of those techniques to ensure that you create change in your office; I have noticed over time that as Parliament we have to work also on the authority, because the authority of this regulation is limited. Mr Speaker, the authority is limited, we have to ensure that we give them a stronger authority and have resources to facilitate their operations and they need skilled personnel and modernized equipment to regulate the electricity and water supply. Please ensure that you spend on the company and ensure that at the end of the day you are able to get a corresponding return. I don't want us to forget or to lose sight of the fact that this regulatory body oversees the electricity and the water sector; they are also responsible for tariff regulation. Mr Speaker, one thing that has been so amazing or so shocking is the tariff disparity between the water sector and the electricity sector. I can say; I am an Opposition MP I should be the one condemning the tariff but as somebody who has this Nation at heart, where there is problem we should be able to identify the problem. The revenue generated by the water sector is very low and at the end of the day for you to

be able to supply water is very expensive. I could remember in the last Parliament, we went to do oversight and we came to the realization that some equipment bought by SALWACO were on demurrage list because they cannot pay for it and the project was gradually transforming to a white elephant project in Bo, we were there as a team. So, they should find way to ensure that meters are placed in everywhere where water is supplied and Honourable Aaron A. Koroma went further to state the Act and the authority that even gave them the right to charge for those using water generally, so we should make use of it. On the flip side, in as much as I am saying that they charge for water is extremely low, I am similarly using the same voice, the same mouth and the same face under the same roof to again say the charge for electricity is extremely high.

Mr Speaker, two days ago, because every weekend I go to Lungi and I come mostly on Monday or Tuesday so I came on Monday, there was no electricity in my house, so I asked the caretaker and he said ***S.O. [2] de top up don las net sir***, I said Okay, I top up the meter by then with **Le250, 000** it only took don a half day and it went off again. Yes, in my house not the appliances, I have lived in that house for a long time and I have used all the appliances there for long so I know how long Top up takes. We have seen where Government has made tremendous strides to negotiate with suppliers for the charge of electricity, for the charge of generated power and we have seen that it has reduced Mr Speaker. We have similarly seen where the sky rocketed prize for fuel which was previously **Nle30** has gone down to **Nle25**. All of these reductions should reflect and we have seen now there is stability in the exchange rate to the extent that it is coming down slowly, all of these should reflect what the people pay. You cannot add electricity tariff when the prices of fuel are down, when the exchange rate is going down gradually, when there is a stability in the exchange rate, you cannot so all of these should inform the position of those who are in these authorities to see how best they can be able to do it. I have said why we have not been able to pay Karl power ship, why we have not been able to pay the Karl Power Pole, the one we are having from Ivory Coast, the CLSG why we have not been able to pay them is not because Sierra Leoneans cannot pay electricity charges, it is because of mismanagement and most times, what happens is that if APC is in governance and somebody talks about mismanagement in any MDAs, it is highly likely that the APC representative will feel attacked, because he thought it is an attack on his own Government. Similarly, when we talk about mismanagement, SLPP Members of Parliament will feel attacked but it is not you that we are attacking, we are attacking the very people who are mismanaging and until we are coordinately ready to expose corrupt people in our governance system, instead we will always be defending them. So to me, there should be a proper probity

in the activities of the billing system of the regulatory commission of both the water and electricity.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will rush up and I will go to three nominees at a go. Miss Margaret Martha Kaitibie, proposed member of the National Petroleum Regulatory Authority. Mr Victor Vandi Kamara, proposed member National Petroleum Regulatory Authority and Mr Charles Lahai, three of you have been appointed to this authority and we all know the petroleum sector; this is the authority that is responsible for the issuance of licence, this is the authority that is responsible for the importation of petroleum, this is the authority that is responsible for the storage of petroleum, this is the authority that is responsible for the distribution of petroleum, this is the authority that is responsible for the pricing of petroleum and when once there is problem with petroleum products, it affects and touches on any other business, even a woman selling coconut will increase the price of the coconut and when you ask her, she would say, the price of fuel ***S.O.[2] de price of fuel don go up nah dat mak.*** So, we should ensure that we institute modalities to monitor effectively and efficiently the pricing formula and I am sure it's because of the pricing formula that we have had this decrease from **Nle30** to **Nle25** and I am sure with further pressure, because we all know what is happening in the world market when there are reduction in the world market it should reflect. So, you should ensure that proper modalities are instituted sir. One thing I also note that they should take considerable look at some of the fuel stations they sell fuel to boys around that are accountable to them and they close very early. Please monitor these boys selling at black market. That is one reason for which I would want to commend Malador, they sell for 24 hours, and that is very good. Say again, yes, Aminata, they also sell for 24 hours and I want to believe in a competitive market, fuel must be available at any given point in time, you do not know when you will need fuel, so I want to commend them and similarly want to encourage others to implement the same timeline system for sales.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will rush up and go to the two other nominees, Miss Sindella Sallay Ndawie, proposed member of the National Youth Commission and Mr Lamin Koroma also a proposed member. One of the responsibilities of the Commission is to ensure that they empower young people; they create the conducive atmosphere for the empowerment of young people, it does not stop there, to similarly ensure that they create the conducive atmosphere for the employment of young people and also to create the conducive atmosphere for young people to participate in National development and in critical decision making process that is your responsibility. Mr Speaker, as of now the records are clear; over 60% of our young people are unemployed, because of this unemployment of our young people, that is why they have

resulted to doing things that are not correct. If there are inter political party or intra political party violence, tell me who will call that young man that is working at the bank to come and stone at the party office? Nobody, he will not go there. ***"They said an idle mind is the devil's workshop."*** Most of our youth are instrumental because they are idle and they don't have anything to do and to very extent, if you read Robert Green's book, **48 Laws of Power**, it's advising politicians to keep their supporters idle, to keep their supporters unemployed so that they can instrumentalize them whenever they need. Read 48 Laws of Power, you will come to agree with me that the only way you will use a youth is when he or she depends solely on you and cannot make it for himself. So that is the strategy we the politicians use and I am not excluding myself; I am saying we the politicians, let us free our youth, let us ensure that they are independent, let them own their own businesses, let them be able to dictate their own operations. We cannot just use them for electioneering purposes and after elections we block their numbers and we disconnect them totally, we should empower them. I am not going to Kush today because it's a public discussion now, any day you tune your radio, you will hear about Kush and the effect it has on our young people. They say, show me the current status of your youth, I will tell you how your country will look like in the future. So how the country will look like is highly contingent on the composition, the status, and the academic capacity of our current youth population. So, let us work hard to ensure that we create that conducive atmosphere for them, let us work hard to ensure that we decentralize most of the opportunities that do come for youth, they should not only be focused in the capital city, we have our youth population all over the Country, let us use our Youth Commission to ensure that our youth benefit from the services that Government will offer them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will go to the appointment for the Sierra Leone Railway Development and Regulatory Authority, Mr Mohamed Tejan Kellah. I came to know Mr Kellah just immediately before vetting and interestingly when we vet appointees, we asked them to present their documents and during the Committee Stage, I commended him fairly for the manner in which he presented his documents. It is unprecedented, the Leader of Government Business can bear me witness that his documents were well organized, well typed and presented to the Committee, no appointee has ever presented document as organized as his. So, I want to use this opportunity to commend you and I want to also urge subsequent appointees to ensure that the document they present to Parliament, are well structured and well organized. Mr Kellah, you have been appointed to the Railway Development Regulatory Authority. Firstly, let me commend the coordination, the camaraderie that exists between the Managing Director and you, who is the Board Chairman. I have seen the Managing Director parading with his Board Chair in every corner of Parliament and that shows

they have a ecumenical fellowship and that is what you should maintain during your operation. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, most times we strangulate progress in Ministries, Departments and Agencies because of personal aggrandizement or personal disagreement between the head and the second, or between the Board Chair and the Directors. I do not know what is the cause or so that has spill over to board chairs and Directors or board chairs and Managing Directors, they don't see the same direction in most cases and that is what affect the development of the institution but in this case, I have seen them working like a team and I hope you will maintain that. Of course, like Honourable Aaron Aruna said, we should not only be mono-focal or myopic to the current status of the railway that is just for mining purposes, we should try to see how best we can explore the PPP to encourage foreign investors so that will have train transportation. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Recently, I was in Lagos and in Lagos, they went and came with people who are building out the rail, in fact their intention is to build from Lagos to Abuja, we used four stations, I was there with Honourable Emerson Saa Lamina and we enjoyed the ride. They only had four stations now and it's a long term plan. That is why, we spoke about this national development plan that a country should have, because there are some things that you cannot achieve in five years, not even in 10 years, you have to be doing them, or you have to concentrate your national resources on them for years, so with a national plan, any Government that comes will follow suit. That project started years ago, but now it has gone far; so if we begin to imbibe that mentality, you just take a tour Mr Kellah and the Managing Director, who happens to be my comrade of the Auradicals club, you just take a tour to Lagos, try to interview them and interrogate them, how did they get where they are today? They will explain the secret to you, so that at the end of the day Sierra Leone will be boastful again of train transportation. What is also very disappointing that you should pay great attention to, is the fact that even the land that is left for rail are being sold, ensure that we secure the land for rail, because at the end of the day, if we have rail from here to Port Loko, here to Bo, here to Kenema at the end of the day transportation will be easy because when you take train, it's cheaper compared to when you take aircraft or when you use other means of transportation, it is cheaper and it is safer. So, please we do not expect the money to come from Government coffers, because we know how strangulated Government is resource wise, but we can employ the services of PPP so that they can come and do feasibility studies and see how best they can be able to build the system and at the end of the day they operate the system and we pay them so that Sierra Leone, like Nigeria, will be boastful of a train services.

Mr Speaker, I will go speedily to other two appointees, Mr Josiah Paris, proposed member of the Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA] and Mr David Allen Amara,

proposed member. Of course, I have demonstrated this countlessly, I don't just praise appointees, I am very careful with the choice of words use when we have appointees in front of us, because some of these appointees, after you have lavish praises on them, they disgrace you, they go to their Institutions and involved in corruption, abuses their offices and involved in other acts that will derail the progress of their Institutions. So, for me to sing praises on you must have had proven track records and I must have known you for a considerable period of time that is why I am very unhesitating, I have no fear in me, I am doing it with peace of mind, I am doing it with high level of composure and I am doing it with alacrity to say that Mr Josiah Paris is one of the finest appointees for today's very appointment that we are looking at. He is a public man, his name rings bell all over this Country and if you have not been able to safeguard your integrity, to safeguard your character and to have some level of charisma, your name will not go far. So, I want to commend him and I want to tell him that he has been tested now to serve the people of this Nation; you will have to give account for your service to the people of this Nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we all know the constraints SLRA is faced with, taking into consideration the poor road maintenance structure and also the drainage system you know, which mostly account for the flood that we have all around, you will even agree with me that we lost one of our Members of Parliament, may his soul rest in peace due to road accident. If you look at the statistics of how many accidents take place for a year and how many lives we lose during those accidents, it is worrisome. Mr Speaker, when we were returning from Liberia by road, we met a packed truck without any signal, any notice, no sign and a taxi just banged under the truck and people in the taxi lost their lives because of the truck. How many of those have happened in our Country? We have seen vehicles that are not roadworthy, in fact they give licences to vehicles that do not even go for fitness test. I know a motorist guys who have driving licence and they cannot drive, in as much as we are maintaining the road, the authority in charged should ensure that proper modalities are put in place.

THE SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you know why I am calling you?

HON ABDUL KARGBO: Yes Mr Speaker, I understand.

THE SPEAKER: Can you please allow these people to go home and celebrate?

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, I have always yielded to you sir, so I am going to be very expeditious. Mr Speaker, finally I want to join all the other appointees together, Mr Palmer was a classmate of mine, we sat together at Fourah Bay College in year two and one thing I have known him for is a man of integrity, he is a man who has stood the test of time, I can vouch for him, as young as he is, if he is given the

opportunity, I am sure he will make headlines in that very Agency. The same goes for Tideni Jabbie, we all sat in the same class year two Fourah Bay College and she was exceptional. You know they comported themselves with grace, dignity and respect whilst we were in Fourah Bay College. Let me admonish you, whatever record you make in University it will hunt you after University. So the mere fact that they have comported themselves that much, I am fully confident that they will transcend that comportment to national development. So, I wish you all the best.

Mr Speaker, also to Mr Mariwan Kallon, I wish you all the best in your new office, you are a young man who is very innovative, you know you have done exceptionally well in your past appointment and we expect you to do exceptionally well. Interestingly your Committee is chaired by the right Honourable Whip of the Opposition, Honourable AKK is a man who is very picky, picky in the sense he believes in quality and he is choosy. So, I am very sure that you have been appointed to work with somebody who cares about the development of that sector, so you have to work with him very closely.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with all that I have said, I want to assure this House that we on this side of the Opposition have no controversy in approving these appointees that have appeared in front of the House, by virtue of qualifications they are qualified to serve in those capacities, I encourage you all not to disgrace us. I pray that you perform well, may God bless you all.

THE SPEAKER: The Leader of Government Business, you have the Floor.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you Colleagues. I know the praises you think I am going to be too long, I am not going to judge you by that, I will just try to do my bit and make sure that the right things is been done. I want to thank you very much, especially coming from the Paramount Chief and alluded to the fact that we have done a very good job and also my colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, he has grilled us by nearly talking about individual nominees. I like that; there is a spirit of nationalism and patriotism, with our governance. We are not going backwards making blame games but today Mr Speaker, is like I was in Church, I forgot that I am in the well of Parliament, I watched a movie they called true confession, Members are talking about nationality, how you do not politicize? How do you have to work? Thank you for your true confession in this Chamber today that is how it should go, that is how we have to rule but let me remind you about our mantra; one country, one people. Mr Festus Kallay, is a testament of our mantra. I have been very systematic in reading their resumes, it's deliberate. I remembered what you went through at Freetown City Council, I can vividly recall, I am not going back to the stories and he is presently the Chief Administrator at a District Council in Western Rural and I saw the Chairman, the

man who I have special admiration for, his APC blood to the core but the supportive spirit of Mr Kallay manifested on that day, there is hope for this Country. Mr Festus Kallay, is a colourless man, a man with firm spirit of policy drive and a strong administrator, this is the man I am seeing, the conglomerate and the mixture of people in the Chamber, today in the Gallery and everywhere dancing for Mr Festus Kallay. My description for him is a colourless man, we have vilified and classified people by colours, Mr Kallay, you are a testament of colourless man.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, we have politicians and we have non politicians, we have administrators and we have people who can serve in the name of God. I said; I heard people preaching in the Chamber today, I heard Honourable AKK speaking about bi-partisan politics; you should not bring politics of Government when it comes to the discharge of duties and he is talking about water sanitation, talking about the purification of water. I heard my Leader of the Opposition going as far as looking into the Bible, preaching the Word of God to my nominees, telling them to serve their consciences, serve the people and serve your Nation that is good. So, when we come with policies in this chamber, those policies you should accept, we are a very listening Government and we listen attentively.

Mr Speaker, as I said, Mr Festus Kallay is a colourless man and look at Tideni, look at Mariwan Kallon and look at Mr Ibrahim Sawaneh. Let me tell you the things that they do share; these people are visionary and they are futuristic. Let me start with Ibrahim Sawaneh, those who were opportuned when we were at Fourah Bay College during the interregnum, people negotiated with the private sector because we can no longer use the road to go to Kenema or Bo and other places, we were using the west coast, the Afric Airlines and those who are able to use the helicopter, how many people at that moment can afford to buy air ticket to Kenema and Bo at that peak of the interregnum, at that difficult moment? So, my colleagues were staying at Fourah Bay College in the dormitories. Some of us were able to enjoy the goodwill of our parents, we were able to go to our provinces to see our parents; Mr Ibrahim Sawaneh, negotiated for students, I travelled so many times to Kenema back and forth on several occasions on the student ticket price. Some people are very futuristic, some people they have the love of their people, even when they are in the private sector they are still good. I said that in the Committee meeting, I said I am going to say something about this man, today, we are here and the only way we can transform this Nation is by education because he knew we are going to be people who are going to lead the society, we are going to take the mantle of leadership and he was futuristic to negotiate on our behalf, thank you. Today, we are paying you in your coin, what you did for us is what we are doing for you today.

Mr Speaker, Tideni and Mariwan, we have realized that water is a major crisis in this Country; we have realized that we are facing so many difficulties in terms of water...

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Leader, Sergeant at Arm what is happening there? Proceed.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, you know it's not only looking at their resume but when you look at where they are coming from, they are in the same circle. For our President before he took on governance, he had the hind sight of governance; he was President before, the only person with that title, a Head of State in the NPRC at a very difficult moment, so you know how to solve some of these problems and if you want to fix the Water Sector and you really want to look beyond, there is the engineering aspect of it. Now even Mr Palmer, these are all engineers; we brought them in not because we want to disadvantage other people, it is because they have been part of the water system for a very long time. When Tideni was asked during the interview, she stated and I read it; she said yes of course, we are talking about the Act, but what is very important is the Regulations, she talked about the charges involved. How do we deal with these issues? So, you have read series of what she has been doing in the Agency are now coming to the force in a very prominent position to dispense what she has done, because she served with dexterity and also Mr Mariwan Kallon, this is what you have been doing, looking at them trying to fix a problem, we are not going back why we have the problems; we are trying to see how we can resolve this water crisis. Mr Mariwan was very clear to us, you can use the Rokel River to bring in water but it's very expensive and there are so many things that we have to do and I asked about a desalination plant, he was not moved because he knows exactly where he is going and how he used to be operating as an engineer and he said yes but it's very difficult for us to do it. I said it's happening in Palestine, the Middle East; countries like Saudi Arabia are doing it, why can't we do it? He said I have taken note of that but let me tell you from my engineering experience, it is something that is very expensive. He is taking into cognizance our economic drive that is why I am happy when I heard from the Opposition talking about economic stability. Mr Speaker, for the past six months we are in single digit inflation but annually we are in still double digits. So we are fighting making policies for economic stability, we cannot see the U-turn within a twinkle of an eye, it is a process. So you take into cognizance the budget disbursement, how do you deal with some of these factors? So he was very careful in answering to us under oath that we cannot just fix this problem. If you look at the third to last paragraph of Mr Palmer's presentation to this Honourable House, he said; we are talking about all of these, yes we are talking about pollution and talking about other things but what about the payment, the arrears the fact that you cannot just talk about having a good water system without putting money into the system. If people are not

paying for water and if people are not doing much to have water into the system, you are only talking about people who are in the street, they wake up at 5:0'clock in the morning in search for water, they have abuse our children, what have you done in the past decades to fix the problem? So our concerns, is how do we fix this problem? That is why you need to trust us, you need to trust President Bio, when the bag of rice was skyrocketing, we sat down and do an introspect of what is happening, we brought what we refer to as a rice formular to bring down the price of rice. I was in that meeting Mr Speaker, I think I have done that edification to this House on several occasions. We come back to the issue of petroleum, we sat down again and we did the introspect of what is happening, we all know the private sector; we are not saying they are wicked but they want to make profit, with an introspect of sincerely and out of good policies we are able now today to stabilize the price, we did not politicize petroleum products, that is the benefit all of us are getting today, that is how we bluff with our Administration, it reflects on the people of Sierra Leone and that shows we are in charge of this governance, criticize us but we will ask you to bring solution to it.

Mr Speaker, the issue of water in my elementary economics, I was told by my economics teacher that land is a free gift of nature but we are now buying it **\$10,000** depending on the locality of the land, for one town lot is sold at **\$10,000** if you formulate that it, it is over **Nle200,000** but tell them to pay for water, I heard my colleague talking about ***S.O.[2] Wi go mit dem dae get wata, n dem put inside n dem filter am*** Go to Guma Valley, I have seen their filtration mechanisms, every water you collect from a natural resources it's not purified, it goes through a water system and it goes through the filtration mechanisms, those who are engineers, Mariwan, Palmer and Tideni, they will tell you. It's not a standard bureau; it is the engineers that knows about for this system. Guma Valley have one of the most expensive filtration mechanism, I have been at Mile 13; take your time to go there, you do not just get water; you can take water even from where people are using water which is from waste of domestic use, it can be purified in advanced Countries, they are using it ***S.O. [2] una kin see pa de bottle, dem sae dis a recycle water*** but they advise you between the one that is drinkable or not, even the advanced countries in the world like the United States of America they have bottled waters. What are we talking about? We cry down our institutions it is not a human resource issues in those institutions we are addressing, it is our people we are dealing with, those who rule and those who have turn politics into social life or as a political drive for them to benefit, that is the thing we have to change.

Mr Speaker, one thing I admire about Ernest Bai Koroma when he came as a President, he talked about behavioural and attitudinal change, I was over there and I was talking

about that all the time. It is not what we say, it's our intrinsic value of what we wish for our people, of what we desired, of what we give out in terms of policies and stricto sensu, how do we stand strong as the visionary and strong leaders? That is what we have not demonstrated. You know, if you see these people here dancing sometimes they mocked us, because we politicize what we are not supposed to be politicized but today we talk this way and tomorrow we go the other way. Some of us are very sacrosanct in what we do and we are very firm in our policy drive, that is why when I talk to my colleagues, I don't have two sides of the coin, I only have one side and Mr Speaker, all of them you see in vivid case, I don't like to call anyone, I just call them because I wanted to cite an example. We don't put square peg in a round hole, but what you have done is to look at them decisively and take critical positions given to them, because we want to solve this problem that is why we have these gentlemen and the ladies in front of us. No matter how we talk about it, we have moved from a professional drive to a social drive and to an innovative drive of these people that is what we have done. When we say we are talking about gender fight, we want to call it gender parity in our Administration. You have to check for yourself and do your calculation that is how it goes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me tell you one thing in the Fifth Parliament, when I stood in this Well, I said we have conglomerate of representation and I did my descriptions and the other time, I said the only way we can succeed is about simple political formular, these political parties you see policies are not merged to our political parties, APC cum SLPP to make good policies to make this Nation a better place for all of us and that is all what democracy is about, is the transformation of our people but we misinform our people, we use social media as a way to vilify our Country, we show our Country as if we are not value and we are being not patriotic. Mr Speaker, let me tell you those who are doing this, are those who are in position of trust, because you want to gain political positions, because you want to get political recognition and because they are looking for votes, we have done this for far too long and you see the President who have said, I don't go after the chickens, I go after those who are in charge of governance, those who are in charge of policy drive and those who can transform this Country. When the President is going out all the time, little they do not realize is that the President is the Chairman of ECOWAS, this President is also a member of the Security Council, this President is also the Chairman of G-TEN and this President had just been invited as one of the first President of the African country after the G20 so tell me and you bring funny things to him, talking about ***S.O. [2] E dae fly fly nomore.*** When we realize that we are having problems with the COVID-19, we were very futuristic in the 2020 budget; we brought you what we called QUBE to make sure there are essential commodities in the market, so we cannot fall short of it that is

what we did. Today while other countries are struggling the likes of Guinea and Liberia we are busy having essential commodities in the market that is why I said we can only succeed SLPP, APC cum good policies and QUBE today that is what brought essential commodities, it is on record, read 2024 budget performance.

Mr Speaker, let me bring this to your mind again, we passed the railway agreement with Kingho, it is 100% owned by this Government, I talked to a comrade and a brother, Mr Ford, we talked about what to do? When he was giving the position he came to my office and we were discussing about Regulations and what we have done but let me tell you in that agreement, it's not only for you to transport the minerals from Ferengbeya to Pepel no, in that agreement it is very clear that they are also charged with the responsibility of transporting agricultural products. We do not need special train for transportation. We are not looking for those who voted for us, whether you vote for us or not, that is not our business but our business is to make sure that people deserve essential services. So, in that agreement we have a provision for transportation of agricultural products. Mr Ford the Chairman, we are now looking how do we manage them? In fact he came to me that he wanted to bring the Regulation and I said if you want to bring the Regulation and the Statutory Instruments don't disadvantage them, engage them and discuss with them. The Chairman of the Legislative Committee had an engagement with them, so all of what we have seen is about good policy drives and what we pass here stand the test of time and the only way we can support them is to make sure that we put politics aside and we give them the professional face and let them do their job expeditiously. Do not just vilify them because you have heard somebody talking about them on social media and that is the new thing we have now that they vilify people's position of trust because they see something on social media, they even forgot that we have what you call the Artificial Intelligent [AI], they don't even cross check and they will start to say odd things around but that is how we are.

Mr Speaker, I don't want to go to the MCC for the energy, I was there when we signed the MCC with the President, I saw the letters and I was interviewed together with Honourable Abdul Kargbo, the Opposition Leader, even the erstwhile Leader of the Opposition, Chernor Maju Bah, I sat with both of them and we discussed why we need energy. Mr Speaker, I saw the letter when they showed me coming from Sierra Leoneans why we should not get MCC, I said that is why I thought I was in Church, because I saw the prophecy coming out today that we need to be Sierra Leoneans, there is no other Nation than Sierra Leone, our similarities are far better than our differences. Let me tell you president Bio is a strong man, Shabba Ranks once said "***It is not easy to bring down a good man.***" That is how we do and that makes us one

Country, one people, whether you are there or this other side, we are the same people, no matter what you say about us but today we have energy in this country Mr Speaker, it is the level of distribution is a problem, they have destroyed the transmission lines and they have destroyed transformers, it is happening all over the Country, in Kono, in Kenema, in Port Loko and all over why? Simple patriotism and you are talking about having 24hrs electricity go and do that one in England, you will not live to see the other day but here when they want to cry us down, they will go embark destructions and people politicised it. You can fool people sometimes but you cannot fool them all the time, some of us we are above the belt.

Mr Speaker, thank you very much for accommodating us to talk about these wonderful nominees, thank you colleagues for your contributions, the Paramount Chiefs, I am happy you said something about the nominees, thank you, for the Opposition, today is a day I am happy because you said what is supposed to be said and how we should be as Sierra Leoneans, may the Lord bless you, I will continue to triumph no matter what it may be, to the Gallery today you are celebrating and today you will continue to celebrate but I will quote from my colleagues on the other side when you started, he said Section [61] of the 1991 Constitution Act NO. 6 ***S.O. [2] Nah President nah ime appoint dem so nah ime get for fire dem back if u nor wok***, clap for that one. Thank you very much for supporting them to do the good work for the survival of this Nation, do the good work for the transformation of this Country will be all in our hands. Thank you may the Lord bless us all, thank you for listening. Mr Speaker, except they don't want to be in Church, or they don't want to be pastors or they pretended to be pastors today, so I was just a member of the congregation trying to compliment them but a true confession happens today.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, I move that the Second Report of the Third Session of the Committee on Appointments and public service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved. Thank you, may lord bless us all.

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

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[The motion of the Committee on appointment and the public service has been Carried]

THE SPEAKER: The Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone and my good self, congratulate you on your approval by this House of Parliament, go and do something different and go and help this nation. Thank you very much, you may leave.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER:

Honourable Members, The Selection Committee meets tomorrow, Wednesday, 12th, November, 2025 at 1:00p.m. prompt.

The selection Committee meets tomorrow, Honourable Members, Leaders on both sides of the aisle the Selection Committee meets tomorrow, Wednesday 12th November, 2025 at 1:p.m. prompt in the Speaker's conference room. Whips when coming make sure you have your list prepared, or the ruling bench and the opposition bench, make sure when coming to the meeting, you come in agreement with certain principles, so that we make our meeting very short or very brief. Tomorrow 1: p.m. prompt and then today immediately after the Sitting, there's a meeting of the Leadership of Parliament in my Chamber. Immediately after this Sitting, I know of course, as a matter of fact, Honourable Members you have a meeting in committee room one immediately after this sitting, but I have a brief meeting before that meeting with the Leadership in my Chamber just for probably 15 minutes and the Leadership will leave my chamber to that meeting in Committee Room [1], so all Members immediately after the adjournment go to committee room one. I just want to see the Leadership briefly for about 15 minutes.

HON. REBECCA YEI KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O [23]. I want to make an appeal here on behalf of certain groups of people that are very important to us and these people are with us day and night, these people are the people that know about our phone calls, these people are the people that go with us from one community to another to our Constituencies and these people are our drivers. I want to make an appeal here on behalf of our drivers, I know in this Parliament, we have Government drivers and we also have our own personal drivers but Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the rains, you will see our drivers suffering, they don't have any permanent place to sit down. Sometimes, when you call them, you hardly get them because they look for shelter, sometimes they will go in their vehicles and lie down there and sleep, so I know maybe there is no provision made for them but with your good office, I am appealing for these drivers so that they have a place where all of them can sit down whilst we are in the Well, so at any time you call your driver, you know your driver is at particular place and you know exactly where to meet your driver but when loitering around they sometimes sit under that big tree or when it is raining they will come and find shelter where they really don't want to. So, I am appealing for them, although they are not employed by Government, we employ them, but I am appealing for them so that they have a place to sit down. It's not like building a place, maybe there are empty spaces where they can sit down whilst we go on with our parliamentary sittings, after that we can move with them. This is a special appeal I

want to make for the drivers, especially our private and personal drivers. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk take note of that, please inform the Clerk. Yes, Honourable Turay use the mick, what is wrong with the mic?

HON. BENJAMIN TURAY: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O [26] I have sent a letter to the Ethic Committee, I have been facing a serious intimidation and pressure by a neighbour at Hill Station, where my resident is, the things are actually scaring. Last week I came from the provinces, he has a brother that is a Minister, He has already located a security with him and the security is threatening that he is going to open fire if I make any attempt to talk to that man. So, I want to bring this to the attention of the House

THE SPEAKER: What is that?

HON. BENJAMIN TURAY: It's serious Mr Speaker, I have evidence

THE SPEAKER: Who is threatening a Member of Parliament?

HON. BENJAMIN TURAY: I have evidence on my phone, the video where the security officer is making a remark that he is going to open fire on me. So, I want to bring this complaint to this House.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, point of order, I heard you talking about S.O [23] S.O. [26]

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Leader it is just an oversight sir, let us just discard sir.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, under S.O [23] you cannot introduce controversial matters, in as much as we have heard him, I encourage the Honourable Member, it is very personal and we have heard the name he called that has to do with another person in another position of trust and let him do the needful, whether he can come to your office, or he can approach me on how best we can handle it.

THE SPEAKER: Leader this is very important, it is the life of a Member of Parliament that is at stake, we don't want to come to this Well someday and start saying yes, he said it but we relied on technicality and did not listen to him.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, he has said he is been threatened by the police officer that is why I said he can approach me or you and not to make it public. The fact it is something very serious for him, so he can approach us but he is talking about another person in a position of trust and he is not here to defend himself. I am saying let him do the needful that will prompt us to act accordingly.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, I am sure this is a personal issue and that is the essence of S.O [23], I am sure he does it to attract the attention of Leaders in this House so that we can institute the necessary mediation or investigation to save his life. This has to do with his life, so it should not be treated quietly.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, let me do correction here, I did not say it's not personal, I said controversial go back to S.O. [23] you should not introduce controversial matters. He mentioned a name of a particular entity what I heard I am okay, I know you are comfortable with what you wanted to see but you are my Member of Parliament, I urge you to talk to me when you get to my Chamber and I promise you through the Speakership, we can handle it appropriately, I will assure you of that. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Now what I am saying you are all here, my Members, I am concerned about anything affecting a particular Member of Parliament, so I will leave that as you have heard from the Leader of Government Business, I will leave that to him, but Leader of Government Business, I hope you are able to resolve that within a week so that at least we don't have the recurrence of such matter, because these are very serious allegations. If a Member of Parliament is being threatened by somebody with gun then I consider that extremely serious. So, just as you have heard from the Leader of Government Business said, reach out to him and explain to us against the next adjourned date. Let me know exactly, of course I will ask the Leader, but let me know again from you what steps have been taken, because I do not want any Member being subjected to anything from the public. Of course, I know as a matter of fact that we are all politicians here and ordinarily the public, when it comes to Members of Parliament are somehow agitated. Sometimes I do not want a situation where a Member of Parliament is subjected to insecurity. So, let me know by next week what the conclusions are, before I advise myself as to which action to take. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENT MR SPEAKER

[The House rose at 2:47pm adjourned the sitting to Tuesday 18th November, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.]

