

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

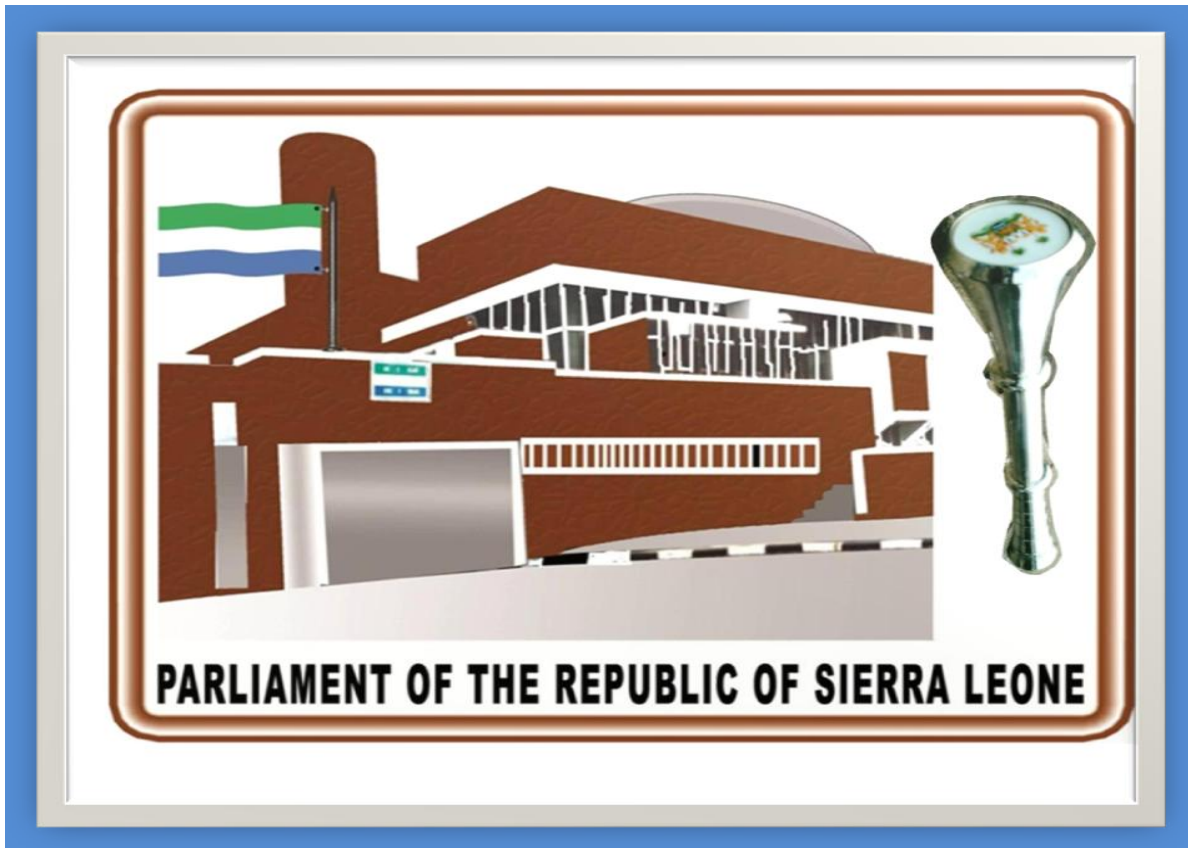
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

THIRD SESSION –FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2025

SESSION – 2025/2026



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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First Meeting of the Third Session of the Sixth Parliament
of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone
Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Thursday 4TH December 2025



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

PRAYERS

[Deputy Director 2 Mrs Fatmata Bintu Weston read the prayers]

[The House met at 10:05 A.M. in Parliamentary Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

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

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand to amend the Order Paper of the House. Item four would now be Announcement of Sectional Select Committees and item five would be Appropriation Act 2026. I so move Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any Seconder?

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

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[Motion of the Amendment of the Order Paper by the Leader of Government Business has been carried]

II. RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER, 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the Record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday 3rd December, 2025. Pages 1 to 4? Page 5? Page 6? Page 7?

HON. ABDUL MARRAY CONTEH: Mr Speaker, Page 7.

THE SPEAKER: Yes Page 7?

HON. ABDUL MARRAY CONTEH: Just a few clarifications, the second to last paragraph that has to do with Honourable Alpha Ben Mansaray from Moyamba District.

THE SPEAKER: It is incomplete?

HON. ABDUL MARRAY CONTEH: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, please take note. The Record of Votes and Proceedings on Page 7 that has to deal with Honourable Alpha Ben Mansaray from Moyamba District is incomplete. Can a Member please move?

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

THE SPEAKER: Any Seconder?

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

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The Record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday 3rd December has been adopted by the House]

III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have the attendance list with me and all Honourable Members are again excused for today because of the same incident yesterday and it has continued today even though I was here before 7:30 A.M. So all Honourable Members are excused for late coming today and even tomorrow, I do not know whether it will continue tomorrow but tomorrow is a day off.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SECTIONAL SELECT COMMITTEES

THE CLERK: With the leave of the Speaker, and Pursuant to Section 93 [2] of the 1991 Constitution and Standing Orders 71[A] and [B], I thereby read the Sectional Committees 2025 to 2026.

PUBLIC ACCOUNT COMMITTEE

1. Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh, Chairperson
2. Honourable P.C Desmond Kargobai, Deputy Chair
3. Honourable Beatrice Iyamide Langley
4. Honourable Emilia Loloh Tongi
5. Honourable Joseph Abdul Bash Kamara
6. Honourable Jibrilla Sur Moijueh
7. Honourable Alpha Foday Maddi Jabbie
8. Honourable Aaron Aruna Koroma
9. Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara
10. Honourable Ibrahim Aziz Bangura
11. Honourable P.C Haja Bintu F.M Kajue Koroma VI

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

1. Honourable Abdul Marray S. Conteh, Chairperson

2. Honourable Jibrilla Sur Moijueh, Deputy Chair
3. Honourable Moses Edwin
4. Honourable Hindolo Moiwo Gevao
5. Honourable Alice Konya Sandi
6. Honourable Charles Osman Abdullah
7. Honourable Alpha Fodie Maddi Jabbie
8. Honourable Abdul Joseph Bash Kamara
9. Honourable Abdul Osman Timbo
10. Honourable Alpha Amadu Bah
11. Honourable Aminata Sesay
12. Honourable Daniel Brima Koroma
13. Honourable John Satie Kargbo
14. Honourable Tamba Kellie
15. Honourable P.C Paul M. Saquee

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

1. Honourable Christopher K. Vandy, Chairman
2. Honourable Mustapha Sellu, Deputy Chair
3. Honourable Ishmeal Sankoh Yillah
4. Honourable Mohamed T. Fofanah
5. Honourable Rebecca Yei Kamara
6. Honourable Momoh Bockarie
7. Honourable Fallah K. Tengbeh
8. Honourable Abubarkarr Fofanah
9. Honourable Boston Munda
10. Honourable Alhaji Sorieba Turay
11. Honourable Cecilia Mabinti Bangura
12. Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara
13. Honourable Rose Marie Bangura
14. Honourable Sallieu Osman Sesay

15. Honourable Alfred Thompson
16. Honourable P.C Desmond Mahayei Kargobai II

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL
CORPERATION**

1. Honourable Mohamed Bangura, Chairperson
2. Honourable P.C Cyril Foray Gondor II, Deputy Chair
3. Honourable Sia Mahawa Habiamama Tommy
4. Honourable Abdul Karim Bangura
5. Honourable Moses Edwin
6. Honourable Bernadette Songa
7. Honourable Emilia Lolloh Tongi
8. Honourable Mohamed Kanneh
9. Honourable Mohamed Billoh Shaw
10. Honourable Massay Ngahiteh Aruna
11. Honourable Mariatu Rachel Pessima
12. Honourable John Charles Conteh
13. Honourable Kemoh Conteh
14. Honourable Lucinda Finda Kellie
15. Honourable Rugiatu Kamara
16. Honourable Rose Marie Bangura

HUMAN RIGHT COMMITTEE

1. Honourable Dr Umpha S.G Koroma, Chairperson
2. Honourable Paul Samba Conteh, Deputy Chair
3. Honourable Osman Wurie Jalloh
4. Honourable Hindolo Moiwo Gevao
5. Honourable Mohamed Kanneh
6. Honourable Abubakarr Fofanah
7. Honourable Amie Moriba

8. Honourable Mariama Zombo
9. Honourable Brima Mansaray
10. Honourable Rugiatu Tarawalie Musaffa
11. Honourable Fatmata Sarah Soukenah
12. Honourable Daniel Fonah
13. Honourable Alpha Amadu Bah
14. Honourable Ibrahim Aziz Bangura
15. Honourable Mabinty Forna
16. Honourable P.C Alhaji Masakama Kanamanka III

COMMITTEE ON MINES AND MINERALS RESOURCES

1. Honourable Saa Emmerson Lamina, Chairperson
2. Honourable Fatimata Bockarie, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Mohamed Sidie Tunis
4. Honourable Basiru Silikie
5. Honourable Tamba Semion Jonny
6. Honourable Mohamed Tarawalie Fofanah
7. Honourable Musa Fofanah
8. Honourable Yusuf Mackery
9. Honourable Edward George
10. Honourable Alhaji Sorieba Turay
11. Honourable Alpha Bah Mansaray
12. Honourable Aminata Sesay
13. Honourable Isaac Tom Tucker
14. Honourable Lucinda Finda Kellie
15. Honourable P.C Paul Saquee

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SANITATION

1. Honourable Bernadette Wuyata Songa, Chairperson.
2. Honourable Emilia Lolloh Tongi, Deputy Chairperson.
3. Honourable Dickson Momoh Rogers

4. Honourable Mariama Ella Goba
5. Honourable Alice Konya Sandy
6. Honourable Tamba Simeon Johnny
7. Honourable Satie Banya
8. Honourable Umu Pyne
9. Honourable Magret Feimata Johnson
10. Honourable Aruna Papay Solomon Larkoh
11. Honourable Cathrine Zainab Tarawally
12. Honourable Dr Unpha S.G Koroma
13. Honourable Miatta Amara
14. Honourable Hawa Conteh
15. Honourable Paul Samba Conteh
16. Honourable P.C Alie Balan Sama Marrah III

**COMMITTEES ON DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC
PLANNING**

1. Honourable Musa Fofanah, Chairman
2. Honourable Roselyn Hawa Saffa, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Juliana Alimatu Fatorma
4. Honourable Hindolo Moiwo Ngevaeo
5. Honourable Amie Nyava Morieba
6. Honourable Adama Bangura
7. Honourable Hawanatu Alice Kallon
8. Honourable Charles Wusman Abdulai
9. Honourable Alice Jebbeh Kumabeh
10. Honourable Abdul Latif Sesay
11. Honourable Adama Conteh
12. Honourable Aruna Papay Soloman Larkoh
13. Honourable Ibrahim Barrie
14. Honourable Peter Yamba Koroma

15. Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara
16. Honourable P.C Bai Famer Tas Bubu IV

COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION

1. Honourable Joseph William Lamin, Chairperson
2. Honourable Musa Sharka Sama, Deputy Chairman
3. Honourable Saa Emmerson Lamina
4. Honourable Alice Konya Sandy
5. Honourable Francis Amara Kai Samba
6. Honourable Musa Lahai
7. Honourable Adul S. Marray Conteh
8. Honourable Captained Retired Sylvester A.M Boima
9. Honourable Zombo Mariama Munya
10. Honourable Abubakarr Fofanah
11. Honourable Alpha Ben Mansaray
12. Honourable Ibrahim Aziz Bangura
13. Honourable Ibrahim Barrie
14. Honourable Rugiatu Rosy Kanu
15. Honourable Mohamed S. Kamara
16. Honourable P.C Retired Captain Prince Lansana Bio

COMMITTEE ON BASIC AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

1. Honourable Rebecca Yei Kamara, Chairperson.
2. Honourable Umu Pyne, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Christoph K Vandy
4. Honourable Neneh Lebbie
5. Honourable Kokofa Fara Mansaray
6. Honourable Beatrice Mya Kaigbai
7. Honourable Foryoh Tollie
8. Honourable Kekura C. Vandy
9. Honourable Mohamed Kanneh

10. Honourable Abdulai A. Kamara
11. Honourable Daniel Fornah
12. Honourabl Mohamed Papa Bangura
13. Honourable Zainab Bah
14. Honourable Mohamed Conteh
15. Honourable Hawa Conteh
16. Honourable P.C Paul Ngegba Saqee V

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

1. Honourable Salieu Osman Sesay, Chairperson
2. Honourable Cecilia Mabinti Bangura, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Hawa Kallon
4. Honourable Gibrilla Moijeh
5. Honourable Musa Sharka Sama
6. Honourable Yusuf Mackery
7. Honourable Abu Kemokai
8. Honourable Mohamed S. Rahman Koker
9. Honourable Mohamed Billoh Shaw
10. Honourable Mohamed T. Fofanah
11. Honourable Foryoh Tollie
12. Honourable John Charles Conteh
13. Honourable Marie Kamara
14. Honourable Memunatu Jalloh
15. Honourable Rugiatu Kamara
16. Honourable P.C Lamin Kanneh

COMMITTEE ON FISHERY AND MARINE RESOURCES

1. Honourable Neneh Lebbie, Chairperson
2. Honourable Ella Goba, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Mahawa Habiana Tommy
4. Honourable Satie Banya

5. Honourable Abubakarr Fofanah
6. Honourable Beatrice Maya Kangbai
7. Honourable Edward George
8. Honourable Amara Momoh Kargbo
9. Honourable Brima Mansaray
10. Honourable Catharine Zainab Talawallie
11. Honourable Cecilia Mabinti Bangura
12. Honourable Mabinti Alice Taylor Bangura
13. Honourable Mabinti F.A Furnah
14. Honourable Mohamed Papay Bangura
15. Honourable Zainab Bah
16. Honourable P.C Tongos Neya Marah III

COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

1. Honourable Veronica Kadie Sesay, Chairperson
2. Honourable Adama Bangura, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Komba Quee
4. Honourable Beatrice Maya Kaingbai
5. Honourable Ella Mariama Goba
6. Honourable Osman Wurie Jalloh
7. Honourable Tamba Semion Johnny
8. Honourable Princess Kaddie Daramy
9. Honourable Fallah K. Tengbeh
10. Honourable Abdul Latiff Sesay
11. Honourable Abdulai A. Kamara
12. Honourable Alpha Ben Mansaray
13. Honourable Dr Unpha F.G Koroma
14. Honourable Daniel Amadu Bangura
15. Honourable Memunatu Jalloh
16. Honourable P.C Saffa Munya Tamu

COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

1. Honourable Alex Mattia Rogers, Chairperson.
2. Honourable Retired Captain Sylvester Boima, Deputy Chairperson.
3. Honourable Musa Shaka Sama
4. Honourable Alpha Foday M. Jabbie
5. Honourable Kokofa Fara Mansaray
6. Honourable Juliana Alimatu Fatorma
7. Honourable Princess Kaddie Daramy
8. Honourable Abdul Karim Kanu
9. Honourable Abdulai A. Kamara
10. Honourable Alhaji Soriba Turay
11. Honourable Jawai Sesay,
12. Honourable Alusine Bash Kamara
13. Honourable Lucinda Finda Kellie
14. Honourable Mohamed Sheridan Kamara
15. Honourable P.C Retired Captain Prince Lansana Bio

COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. Honourable Moses Edwin, Chairperson
2. Honourable Satie Banya, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Charles Wusman Abdulai
4. Honourable Momoh Bockarie
5. Honourable Komba Quee
6. Honourable Captain Sylvester Boima
7. Honourable Veranica Kaddie Sesay
8. Honourable Abdul Karim Kanu
9. Honourable Musa Lahai
10. Honourable Hamid Hola Mansaray
11. Honourable Mohamed Sheridan Kamara
12. Honourable Mahmoud Kamara

13. Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara
14. Honourable Rugiatu Kamara
15. Honourable Alfred Thompson
16. Honourable P.C Retired Captain Prince Lansana Bio

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

1. Honourable Momoh Bockarie, Chairperson
2. Honourable Charles Osman Abdulai, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Saa Emmerson Lamina
4. Honourable Amara Momoh Kargbo
5. Honourable Moses Edwin
6. Honourable Princess Kaddie Daramy
7. Honourable Kekura C. Vandy,
8. Honourable Beatrice Yaminde Langley
9. Honourable Ibrahim Kabba
10. Honourable Alhaji Sorieba Turay
11. Honourable Haja Miatta Amara
12. Honourable Hamid Hola Mansaray
13. Honourable John Satie Kargbo
14. Honourable Mohamed Conteh
15. Honourable Tamba Kellie
16. Honourable P.C Retired Captain Prince Lansana Bio

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND CULTURE

1. Honourable Isaac Tom Tucker, Chairperson
2. Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Mohamed Bangura
4. Honourable Memunatu Jalloh
5. Honourable Mabinti Alice Taylor Bangura
6. Honourable Daniel Amadu Bangura
7. Honourable Bangura Abdul Karim

8. Honourable Rosaline Hawa Siafa
9. Honourable Ibrahim Kabba
10. Honourable Mohamed Billoh Shaw
11. Honourable Idriss Sahid Kamara
12. Honourable Alice Bayoh
13. Honourable Beatrice Yaminde Lamley
14. Honourable Fatimata Sarah Sukuneh
15. Honourable Amie Nyava Morieba
16. Honourable P.C Bai Faima Agbak IV

COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND SANITATION

1. Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara, Chairperson
2. Honourable Ibrahim Aziz Bangura, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Hawanatu Alice Kallon
4. Honourable Ali Bayoh
5. Honourable Amie Nyava Morieba
6. Honourable Kokonfa Fara Mansaray
7. Honourable Habib Kefa FabaI
8. Honourable Fatimata Sarah Sukenah
9. Honourable Juliana Alimatu Fatorma
10. Honourable Beatrice Kangbai Maya
11. Honourable Abdul Karim Bangura
12. Honourable Mohamed Alpha Jalloh
13. Honourable Mohamed Conteh
14. Honourable Tamba Kellie
15. Honourable Mohamed Sheborah Bangura
16. Honourable P.C Sery Foray Gondoh

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Honourable Peter Yamba Koroma, Chairperson
2. Honourable John Charles Conteh, Deputy Chairperson

3. Honourable Alusine Bash Kamara
4. Honourable Mabinty Alice Taylor Bangura
5. Honourable Mahmoud Kamara
6. Honourable Rugiatu Kamara
7. Honourable Umu Pyne
8. Honourable Mohamed Joseph Kanu
9. Honourable Saa Emmerson Lamina
10. Honourable Mustapha Sellu,
11. Honourable Hindolo Gevao
12. Honourable Sheik Santigie Ibrahim Kargbo
13. Honourable Ibrahim Moiwo Dauda
14. Honourable Captain Sylvester Boima
15. Honourable Ismeal Sankoh Yillah
16. Honourable P.C Kandeh Baba, Keiha III

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

1. Honourable Mohamed Billoh Shaw, Chairperson
2. Honourable Abdul Joseph Bash Kamara, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Kemokai Abu
4. Honourable Osman Wurie Jalloh
5. Honourable Amara Momoh Kargbo
6. Honourable Foyoh Tholley
7. Honourable Mariama Ella Goba
8. Honourable Musa Fofanah
9. Honourable Emillia L. Tongi
10. Honourable Alusine Bash Kamara
11. Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara Kambia
12. Honourable Haja Miatta Amara
13. Honourable Hamid Hola Mansaray
14. Honourable Jawai Sesay

15. Honourable Mariama Bangura
16. Honourable P.C Kandeh Baba Kaila III

COMMITTEE ON LAND AND HOUSING

1. Honourable Quintin Salia Konneh, Chairperson
2. Honourable Ibrahim Kabba, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Sarty Banya
4. Honourable Alex Mattia Rogers
5. Honourable Fatimata Sarah Sokenah
6. Honourable Bintu Fatimata Bockarie
7. Honourable Roseline Hawa Siafa
8. Honourable Maseray Gaiteh Aruna
9. Honourable Ibrahim Koroma
10. Honourable Zainab Bah
11. Honourable Abdal Osman Timbo
12. Honourable Adama Conteh
13. Honourable Aminata Sesay
14. Honourable Isaac Tom Tucker
15. Honourable Rugiatu Rose Kanu
16. Honourable P.C Kandeh Baba Keila III

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Honourable Ambrose Maada Lebbie, Chairperson
2. Honourable Tamba Simeon Johnny, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Sia Mahawa Tommy
4. Honourable Abdul Karim Bangura
5. Honourable Adama Bangura
6. Honourable Mustapha Sellu
7. Honourable Mohamed T. Fofanah
8. Honourable Boston Munda
9. Honourable Bashiru Silikie

10. Honourable Dr Unpha S.G Koroma
11. Honourable Mohamed Sheborah Bangura
12. Honourable Marie Kamara
13. Honourable Mohamed Sheriff Kargbo
14. Honourable Paul Samba Conteh
15. Honourable Peter Yamba Koroma
16. Honourable P.C Bai Shebora Sheba Gberek III

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL WELFARE

1. Honourable Haja Miatta Amara
2. Honourable Hawa Conteh, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Ismeal Sankoh Yilla
4. Honourable Juliana Alimatu Fatorma
5. Honourable Rugiatu Talawallie Mustapha
6. Honourable Alice Jebbeh Kumabeh
7. Honourable Joseph William Lamin
8. Honourable Princess Kaddie Daramy
9. Honourable Sheik Santigie Ibrahim Kargbo
10. Honourable Beatrice Iyamide Langley
11. Honourable Idrissa Moiwo Dauda
12. Honourable Aruna Papay Solomon Larkoh
13. Honourable Mohamed Papa Bangura
14. Honourable Mohamed Shebora Bangura
15. Honourable P.C Kandeh Baba Keiha III

COMMITTEE ON WORKS AND PUBLIC ASSETS

1. Honourable Bashiru Silikie, Chairperson
2. Honourable Kefa Fabai, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Fallah K. Tengbeh
4. Honourable Joseph Williams Lamin
5. Honourable Ambrose Maada Lebbie

6. Honourable Rugiatu Talawalie Mustapha
7. Honourable Mohamed Sheriff Rayman Koker
8. Honourable Mohamed T. Fofanah
9. Honourable Boston Munda
10. Honourable Daniel Amadu Bangura
11. Honourable Daniel B. Koroma
12. Honourable Hawa Conteh
13. Honourable John Sarty Kargbo
14. Honourable Mohamed Alpha Jalloh
15. Honourable Kemoko Conteh
16. Honourable Bai Shebora Gereh III

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AFFAIRS

1. Honourable Hamid Hollah Mansaray, Chairperson
2. Honourable Ibrahim Barrie, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Cecilia Mabinty Bangura
4. Honourable Alpha Mohamed Jalloh
5. Honourable Mohamed Sheriff Kargbo
6. Honourable Peter Yamba Koroma
7. Honourable Benjamin Turay
8. Honourable Alice Konya Sandy
9. Honourable Saa Kotu Momodu
10. Honourable Sia Mahawa Habiamma Tommy
11. Honourable Edward George
12. Honourable Idrissa Moiwo Dauda
13. Honourable Ishmeal Sankoh Yilla
14. Honourable Komba Quee
15. Honourable Idriss Sahid Kamara
16. Honourable P.C Balan Sama A. Marrah III

COMMITTEE ON GENDER AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS

1. Honourable Catherine Zainab Tarawallie, Chairperson
2. Honourable John Sarty Kargbo, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Abubakarr Fofonah
4. Honourable Alfred Thompson
5. Honourable Abdulai A. Kamara
6. Honourable Marie Kamara
7. Honourable Abubakarr Fofanah
8. Honourable Alice Jebbeh Kumabeh
9. Honourable Veronica Kaddie Sesay
10. Honourable Alice Konya Sandy
11. Honourable Rugiatu Talawallie Mustapha
12. Honourable Foyor Tholley
13. Honourable Mariama Munya Zombo
14. Honourable Sia Mahawa Habiamma Tommy

COMMITTEE ON NACSA AND NGOs

1. Honourable Abdul Latiff Sesay, Chairperson
2. Honourable Alusine Bash Kamara, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Daniel Fornah
4. Honourable Lucinda Finda Kellie
5. Honourable Mabinty F.A Fornah
6. Honourable Marie Kamara
7. Honourable Osman Wurie Jalloh
8. Honourable Benjamin Turay
9. Honourable Bernadette Wuyata Songa
10. Honourable Mohamed Sheriff Rayman Kokor
11. Honourable Saa Momodu Kortu
12. Honourable Racheal Mariatu Pessima Sesay
13. Honourable Abdul Joseph Bash Kamara

14. Honourable Hawa Rosaline Siafa
15. Honourable Fatimata Bockarrie
16. Honourable P.C Tongos Fonkola Marrah III

COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES AND ETHICS

1. Honourable P.C Sheku Terrena Togos Teya Fonkola Lahai Marrah III,
Chairperson
2. Honourable P.C Shebora Sheba Gberek III, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Dickson M. Rogers
4. Honourable Salieu Osman Sesay
5. Honourable Kekura C. Vandy
6. Honourable Veronica Kaddie Sesay
7. Honourable Maseray Aruna
8. Honourable Quintin Sallia Konneh
9. Honourable Alpha Fodai Madi Jabbie
10. Honourable Neneh Lebbie
11. Honourable Aaron Aruna Koroma
12. Honourable Abdal Osman Timbo
13. Honourable Daniel B. Koroma
14. Honourable Mohamed Bangura
15. Honourable Mohamed Sheridan Kamara
16. Honourable P.C Alamin Kanneh

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

1. Honourable Kemokoh Conteh, Chairperson
2. Honourable Jawai Sesay, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Alfred Thompson
4. Honourable Mariama Bangura
5. Honourable Memunatu Jalloh
6. Honourable Tamba Kellie
7. Honourable Brima Mansaray

8. Honourable Abubakarr Fofanah
9. Honourable Komba Quee
10. Honourable Joseph Williams Lamin
11. Honourable Amed Joseph Kanu
12. Honourable Adama Bangura
13. Honourable Dickson Momoh Rogers
14. Honourable Benjamin Turay
15. Honourable Abdul Sulaiman Marray Conteh
16. Honourable P.C Alie Balan Sama Marrah III

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

1. Honourable Yusuf Mackery, Chairperson
2. Honourable Mariama Munya Zombo, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Abu Kemokai
4. Honourable Margret Johnson
5. Honourable Habib Keifa Fabbah
6. Honourable Rebecca Yei Kamara
7. Honourable Brima Mansaray
8. Honourable Francis Amara Kaisamba
9. Honourable Saa Momodu Kortu
10. Honourable Adama Conteh
11. Honourable Alpha Amadu Bah
12. Honourable Daniel Amadu Bangura
13. Honourable Mohamed Shebora Bangura
14. Honourable Mariama Bangura
15. Honourable Zainab Bah
16. Honourable P.C Safa Munya Tamu

COMMITTEE ON SPORTS

1. Honourable Racheal Mariatu Pessima, Chairperson
2. Honourable Osman Yilla Sankoh, Deputy Chairperson

3. Honourable Abdul Karim Kanu
4. Honourable Amed Joseph Kanu
5. Honourable Idriss Sahid Kamara
6. Honourable Foyor Tholley
7. Honourable Amara Momoh Kargbo
8. Honourable Maseray Gahinteh Aruna
9. Honourable Ibrahim Koroma
10. Honourable Mohamed Shriff Kargbo
11. Honourable Alpha Amadu Bah
12. Honourable Aruna Papay Solomon Larkoh
13. Honourable Mariama Bangura
14. Honourable Alpha Jalloh
15. Honourable Mohamed Papa Bangura
16. Honourable P.C Alamin Kanneh

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CIVIC

1. Honourable Rugiatu Rosaline Kanu, Chairperson
2. Honourable Alpha Ben Mansaray, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Abubakarr Fofanah
4. Honourable Kemokoh Conteh
5. Honourable Mamoud Kamara
6. Honourable Mohamed Sheriff Kargbo
7. Honourable Benjamin Turay
8. Honourable Tamba Simeon Johnny
9. Honourable Sheik Santigie Ibrahim Kargbo
10. Honourable Brima Mansaray
11. Honourable Umu Pyne
12. Honourable Bintu Fatimata Bockarie
13. Honourable Dickson Momoh Rogers
14. Honourable Musa Lahai

15. Honourable Ibrahim Kabba

16. Honourable P.C Cyril Foray

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

1. Honourable Boston Munda, Chairperson
2. Honourable Fallah K. Tengbeh, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Mohamed Sidi Tunis
4. Honourable Ibrahim Koroma
5. Honourable Bashiru Silikie
6. Honourable Edward George
7. Honourable Ambrose Maada Lebbie
8. Honourable Ali Bayor
9. Honourable Jbrilla S Moijueh
10. Honourable Latif Sesay
11. Honourable Daniel Fornah
12. Honourable Ibrahim Barrie
13. Honourable Mohamed Bangura
14. Honourable Paul Samba Conteh
15. Honourable Rugiatu Roseline Kanu
16. Honourable P.C Baba Keiha Kandeh III

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

1. Honourable Dickson Momoh Rogers, Chairperson
2. Honourable Hindolo Moiwo Gevao, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Musa Lahai
4. Honourable Mohamed Kanneh
5. Honourable Margret Feimata Johnson
6. Honourable Francis Amara Kaisamba
7. Honourable Bashiru Silikie
8. Honourable Alex Mattia Rogers
9. Honourable Ambrose Maada Lebbie

10. Honourable Abubakarr Fofanah
11. Honourable Alusine Bash Kamara
12. Honourable John Charles Conteh
13. Honourable Mabinty Taylor Bangura
14. Honourable Mamoud Kamara
15. Honourable Mohamed Conteh
16. Honourable P.C Bai Shebora Sheba Gberek III

COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND PUBLIC SERVICE

1. Honourable Mathew Saa Nyuma, Chairperson
2. Honourable Bashiru Silikie, Deputy Chairperson
3. Honourable Veronica Kaddie Sesay
4. Honourable Bernadette Wuyata Songa
5. Honourable Dickson Momoh Rogers
6. Honourable Saa Emmerson Lamina
7. Honourable Emillia Lolloh Tongi
8. Honourable Abdul S. Marray Conteh
9. Honourable Nenneh Lebbie
10. Honourable Aaron Aruna Koroma
11. Honourable Abdul Kargbo
12. Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara
13. Honourable Catherine Zainab Talawallie
14. Honourable Daniel B Koroma
15. Honourable Rosemarie Bangura
16. Honourable P.C Cyril Foray Gondor II

Mr Speaker, in pursuant of Section 93 [1] and [2] of the Constitution and Standing Orders 71[A] and [B,] this is the Sectional Committee list.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: We want to do effective changes in Transparency Committee and that has been communicated to the Clerk. We kindly ask that you announce that before the House.

THE SPEAKER: Can you announce the replacement?

THE CLERK: With the leave of Mr Speaker, correction on Committee on Transparency and Accountability, Honourable Sallieu Osman Sesay will replace Honourable Peter Yamba Koroma as Member. Mr Speaker the Committee list.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader can you move?

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: Before the Leader moves Sir; I want to approach your seat.

HON. IBRAHIM KOROMA: There is an observation Sir in connection to policies. I want to request through the good office of the Leader that Members of Parliament are here on different professional backgrounds and for any subsequence arrangement of Committee list, I am asking that the Clerk must go through our professional backgrounds so that we can be selected in these Committees.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Point of Order Mr Speaker. He is no more a new Member because we are now in the Third Session but such appeal is better done with your Leaders and not in the Chamber please or else we would not have a Sitting today.

THE SPEAKER: Is alright, yes Leader your Motion.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you can still go ahead; I am still going to make the provision for amendment. Have you done?

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: Just one minute, you know we do not have the list of the Paramount Chiefs, so what I did I only entered for SLPP and now we have two Paramount Chiefs that are left out.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I think it is fair to move the Motion now.

THE SPEAKER: We will look at them and we will announce that tomorrow.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: They will do the tidings. He has done it already.

THE SPEAKER: Oh, he has done it, then announce.

THE CLERK: Amendment on the Committee on Energy, Honourable P.C Retired Captain Prince Lansana Bio is replaced by Honourable P.C Mahayei Kargobai and Committee on

Social Welfare, Honourable P.C Kandeh Baba Keiha III is replaced by Honourable P.C Alhaji Kandeh Paria Kawaleh II. Committee on Social Welfare and then Committee on Youth Affairs, Honourable P.C Balan Sama Alie Marah III is replaced by Honourable P.C Alhaji Kandeh Paria Kawaleh II, these are the amendments.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you Mr Clerk. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, from the Sectional Committee read by the Clerk of Parliament in today's Sitting with some amendments be adopted by the House.

THE SPEAKER: Any Seconder?

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: I so second.

[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]

[Membership of the respective Sectional Committees as announced by the Clerk of Parliament have been approved as amended]

HON. SALLIEU O. SESAY: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O [25]. I am deeply concerned about the indiscriminate exhortation of crude palm oil out of this Country especially so when most of these dealers are using our porous borders to invade possible taxes that will be imposed by NRA. Mr Speaker, as you know we have business organisations in this Country that are not paying taxes to Government and these businesses are really undermining the effectiveness of the economy of the Country. In the just concluded Finance Act where one of the intentions in introducing those taxes is to protect our infant industries, I thereby send this Notice to the House for consideration. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that this House imposes tax of 35% on crude palm oil classified under HSO 1511 to be included in the Finance Act of 2026.

THE SPEAKER: You are giving Notice of Motion?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: It is good you have explained it from the other side and what Mr Speaker is asking now you should stand on S.O. 25 to give Notice and after that I will make a brief statement and wait for the Motion.

THE SPEAKER: So when will your Notice be in this House? Mr Leader do you have anything to say?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you for using S.O. 25 to serve Notice to this House. You should have looked at the Budget and the proposals were 9.2% of revenue collected so far, but in fact our domestic revenue collected so far in this Budget declined to is 8.1% of budgeting performance. Mr Speaker, on the ECOWAS recommendation revenue mobilisation should be 20% of GDP. We are far below that and even if you add 1.5% on what we have now which is 8.1% maybe towards the end of the year we can get 9.2% so for us on this side it is a very good Notice and we look forward to see the Notice in writing. We can lay that Notice here tomorrow with the leave of Mr Speaker but let me just say we are creating justification for the increment at this time of the Finance Act, and Mr Speaker as I said, you have the Finance Act in your favour to help see how revenues are collected. Mr Speaker, we want it to be signed before we go for recess for the Christmas holidays, so we have done our bit for the 1.5 increment in domestic revenue so we are asking through your good office to the Committee Chairman, let the President sign the Finance Act before we go for Christmas recess. Thank you for the Notice and I have just alluded to what you have said.

IV. BILL

THE APPROPRIATION ACT 2026

2ND ALLOTTED DAY

[CONTINUES DEBATE]

THE SPEAKER: Like I said yesterday 15 minutes would be given for the debate per any Member of Parliament willing to add his or her voice to the debate. My intention was to take five from either side of the Aisles, but I have just been given the list of eight from either side, so in the circumstances I have to reduce it from 15 minutes to 10 minutes because we have a long list. Let me start by inviting Honourable Daniel Fornah to take the Floor.

HON. DANIEL FORNAH: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I first of all want to thank the Minister of Finance and his team for putting this Budget together. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Budget that we are seeing before us here as described by the Minister of Finance in which according to his words, he said the Budget is pro- poor Budget, the Budget is a pro-business Budget and finally he said the Budget is a pro-people Budget. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are certain taxes that he introduced into the system that defined the Budget as not a pro-poor Budget or pro-people Budget but as a predator Budget Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to refer this House to page 36 paragraph 154 of the Budget because yesterday Colleagues on the other side made statement about the roads construction in the Country. Mr Speaker, I believe Colleagues on the other side and the Minister of Finance failed to mention the kilometres of roads that he intends to construct in 2026 in this Budget.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, page 36 paragraph 154 made a clear estimate on the total amount of money to be spent on road construction and this is summed up to Seven Billion in 2026. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, based on the exchange rate that is provided in the Budget which is Twenty Four Leones [Le24.00] this amounts to Thirty Three Million Dollars in total that is going to be used to construct all the roads that the Minister mentioned in the Budget but Mr Speaker for us with engineering background we tried to calculate the cost of one kilometre road. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the cost of one kilometre road stands between \$500000 [Five Hundred Thousand Dollars] to \$ 1.2 Million. Let us take it as \$750 [Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars] for 1 kilometre based on the amount provided in this Budget. Mr Speaker, \$ 33 Million can only construct approximately five kilometres that is less than the road from Mano Junction to Tongo and all the way to Kono. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister made mention of cities like Makeni, Kono, Kenema and Bo we do not know where the Minister is going to source this money because it is not mentioned in this Budget that tells us that the Minister is definitely not telling the

House how he is going to fund the roads mentioned in this Budget and it is very clear that he is bypassing the number of kilometres of roads he intends to construct in 2026.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, yesterday my Colleague from Bo tried to debunk the Honourable Member from Tonkolili District when she made mention of the fact that no transfer has been made from 2025 Budget to the Local Councils according to him he referred us to Annex 13 in which he said Government transferred a total of 91% of the NATCA revenue but he failed to understand that NATCA is a revenue generating entity while Local Council is funded by Government. I want to explain to the Honourable Member despite he is not here, in fact the transfer of the 94% according to him to NATCA account is illegal by the Minister of Finance because when you look at the National Telecommunication Act 2022 it states very clearly in Section 25 that the percentage of revenue generated by NATCA only 88% of the revenue collected by NATCA should be remained by the Agency for their operations. So for my Colleague to mention that 96% of the revenue was transferred to the Agency that exposes the Minister that illegal transfer has taken place. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I look into the operations of NATCA as far as my expertise is concerned, I can even recommend that the Budget is slashed by 60% simply because the current programme that we have today in relation to the rise in data prices is caused by inefficiency of NATCA.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in 2012 we have a company called SALCAB and in 2019 to 2020 that company was unbundled to Zoodlabs and Youngor Group. Zoodlabs was responsible for the submarine cable while Youngor Group was responsible for the international cables. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Zoodlabs cable that runs from France, Morocco and Sierra Leone all the way to South Africa and Liberia all of us are connected to that cable. Mr Speaker, it might interest you to know that in Sierra Leone mobile companies are paying more than three or four times as compared to Liberia and our neighbouring Countries and all of us are connected to this cable. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the current price for 1 MBPS at the cable landing place in Guinea stands at around \$4 per MBPS while the cost of 1 MBPS at the cable landing

place in Liberia stands around \$3 and for Sierra Leone Mr Speaker today the cost of 1MBPS from Zoodlabs stands between \$10 to \$20. This is the reason why mobile operators cannot reduce the data prices in Sierra Leone. Mr Speaker, to make matters worse Zoodlabs is actually charging these mobile operators in Dollars. They are not paying in Leones according to them they charged the mobile operators to pay in Dollars and not in Leones. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me also state it very clear that when the licence given to Zoodlabs is not for them to do retail internet sales but only wholesales. Mr Speaker, Sierra Leone Metro Cable is a subsidiary company of Zoodlabs and even one Mobile network that is presently operating 5G is a subsidiary company of Zoodlabs. Mr Speaker, you cannot sell in wholesale and compete with the one that is selling in retail. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in 2022 to 2023 5G frequency was issued to almost all the Mobile companies in Sierra Leone, but they have not used any of those frequencies to commercialize 3G Network, but today we are seeing one Mobile company that is commercializing 5G on trial frequency. Sierra Leone is the only place where we are seeing the Mobile company is using trial frequency and go on to commercialize it, it has never happened in the whole world Mr Speaker [Applause].

THE SPEAKER: Are you done?

HON. DANIEL FORNAH: No Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Proceed.

HON. DANIEL FORNAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, NATCA are issuing frequency license to Mobile operators and unfortunately Mr Speaker, if you check the books of NATCA even the invoices they are giving to the Mobile operators is only invoice [Interruption]. As it stands from 2021 to 2025, Government has lost over Fifteen Billion Leones to these Mobile operators. Mr Speaker, Government is looking for revenue leakages, these are some of the areas that the Government should look at in order to bring in revenue, instead of increasing taxes of the general populace.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have mentioned here in so many times regarding the road between Mototoka to Yele and Bo Road, that road serves as a symbol of

cohesion in the Country, the only way you can easily connect with the North, South and East is basically from Mototoka to Yele and Bo, and that is just around 54 Kilometres that can be constructed, but unfortunately Mr Speaker this Government year in year out has failed to consider that road. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we do not mind even if the Government can construct that road with a Toll Gate, we are very much okay Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Is alright, thank you very much Honourable Member your time is up.

HON. MUSA FOFANAH: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to make certain clarification before I start my debate. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my Colleague was saying roads that have been constructed in this Country for them it is not clear in the document. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want you to focus on page 36 paragraph 157, with your leave Mr Speaker multi-lateral development partners including ADB, BADIA and Islamic Development Bank financed the construction of several roads so if you are saying Government is giving special money to SLRA, you know it is good for our Colleagues to understand what this Budget is talking about. The Budget is on two parts, we have development partners who are doing their own development to Government whiles Government on his own part is doing its own support so this is just one clarification.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Minister and his team for a very wonderful job being done in this Budget and I want to appreciate His Excellency the President for putting this team together the Minister, the Deputy Minister 1 and 2 and the rest of the Finance team you are doing a great job. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to confirm to this House that this Budget is talking about the midterm national development plan strategy for development. This is a clear manifestation to prove to this House and this Country that only with data we can push this document and this document is talking about data. Mr Speaker, this Government has taken its time to popularize the document with precision. This Government has taken its time to also monitor this document with precision. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to focus on paragraph 9 of page three. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me read

with your leave, “global growth is projected to slow down from 3.3 % in 2024 to 3.2% in 2025 and 3.1% in 2026 reflecting highly on global policy.” Mr Speaker, if we are aligning our document to international budget analysis this is a professional technical job being done by our Minister of Finance. The problem we have with our Colleagues is because they do not understand the dynamisms around this particular Budget. Mr Speaker, this Budget is one of the finest Budgets this Country has ever produced because everything is datarized. Mr Speaker, let me go into another data analysis with your leave Mr Speaker, the same page 3 paragraph 15 total export increased by 2.3%. We have 1.2 Billion Dollars between January to September 2025 relating to the same period in 2024 driven strong agricultural export combined with modest recovery of iron ore export. We are talking about 111 Million Dollars to show transparency and accountability this is the reason why Government through the Ministry of Finance has spent time and energy and professionalism to build this document. Mr Speaker, an MP from Nigeria told me that this Budget is one of the best Budgets in the sub-Sahara Africa. I have his message in my phone. Mr Speaker, he was telling me that our Minister of Finance and his team are genius.

Mr Speaker, let me go to health. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Government spent above 5 Million Dollars as counterpart funding for the Kono Motema Hospital of Excellence [PIHU]. Mr Speaker, let me give you the details of referrals that are coming all over the Country to Kono. Bo District, we have 313 patients that went to Kono just in one year, Bombali we have 513, Bonthe we have 14, Falaba we have 279, Kailahun we have 261, Kambia 79, Western Area Urban 115, Western Area Rural 312, Liberia is 29 and Guinea is 418. Mr Speaker, we believe in doing things in this Country that will benefit our regional brothers and sisters.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to come to Energy and with all due respect to the Chairman of Energy, a speech was delivered to this Honourable House in 2015 by the former President Ernest Bai Koroma and he said with your leave Mr Speaker in paragraph 30 “Mr Speaker my Government objective remains 1000 megawatts by 2017 to increase access to energy in Freetown, the provincial headquarters cities and rural

communities.” Mr Speaker, I can tell you categorically clear that President Bio is the only Government in the history of this Country that has spent from our own revenue. Mr Speaker, to support 7 Districts headquarters towns electrification project, Members of Parliament who are benefiting from Kailahun, Bonthe, Moyamba, and Kambia they can testify so when people are saying things are not happening that is not true.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with the one minute I can end by thanking the Government for all the things they have done for the Kono people and we know that the Kono-Guinea Highway has appeared in this Budget. Mr Speaker, we should not have benefited from the CLSG line if a person like President Bio has not been a President of this Country. We just want to say thank you to President Bio and we want to say thank you to the Ministry of Finance to continue to do your work. We are confidence that we will succeed as a Country and thank you very much Mr Speaker and may God bless us all.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, what is this? The Chamber is noisy; if you have issues wait for your turn and respond later. Honourable Rugiatsu Kanu you have the Floor.

HON. RUGIATU KANU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to appreciate the Minister of Finance and his team for putting together this document. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I start my debate I will want to make some clarifications from the Honourable Member from Kono. The Honourable Member from Kono said we are making comments because we do not understand the Budget but I want to make it clear to him that we do understand the Budget. We know the content and concept of what is in the Budget and that is why we are making significant contributions to the Budget, and I will also want to tell him that we are not criticising the Budget but we are saying exactly what is in the Budget. We are saying this because we want the Ministry of Finance to take this into consideration and make the appropriate considerations.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister of Finance said the Budget is a pro-poor and a pro-business Budget that aims at improving business and the wellbeing of people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on the contrary I will say this Budget is meant to create additional burden on Sierra Leone populace. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we take a look at page seven, Roman number seven and eight, the Minister talked about restoring the excise duty on cement and he also talked about the scope of taxing moveable mechanical power input object including Motor bikes [Interruption].

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Honourable Rugiatsu Kanu, please pause her timing.

Honourable Members, yesterday we only had the following MDAs that were present in this Well for the debate, The Ministry of Communication, Technology and Innovation, The Ministry of Finance, The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Government Printing Department, Road Maintenance Fund Administration, Income Tax Board of Appellate of Commissioners, Teaching Service Commission, Wages and Compensation Commission, Human Resources Management Office, National Commission for Democracy, National Fire Force and the State Lottery. There must be some punitive slashing of budget for those MDAs that do not come here to listen to this debate. Write down the names of those MDAs that are here again today and Mr Clerk let this be included in the Record of Votes and Proceedings.

HON. RUGIATU KANU: Mr Speaker, as I was saying on page 7, Roman number 7 and 8, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we already know that a bag of cement is currently purchased between One Hundred and Seventy Leones that is in Freetown, and then between Two Hundred Leones and sometimes above in places like Krubola because of the transport issue. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if we are saying we are going to restore the 10% on 50Kg of cement means there is going to be a potential increase on cement.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we know when there is an increase in the cost of transportation there is ripping effect in the cost of living. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if we are saying this is a pro-poor Budget but then we have seen an increment in transportation which automatically will lead to an increment in the cost of living of the average Sierra Leonean. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, is this Budget

meant for the wellbeing of Sierra Leoneans? No! Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, instead this Budget widens the scope of burden on the average Sierra Leoneans.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will now move on to Basic Education on page 19.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Minister in his presentation said they have recruited additional Two Hundred School Quality Assurance Management and Resource Officers. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, at present with the inclusion of these Two Hundred we have Three Hundred and Eight Quality Assurance Officers and we are expecting these Three Hundred and Eight to monitor Ten Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Seven schools. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we all know the burden that this School Quality Assurance will face in terms of monitoring in schools, and we know the critical role that the School Monitors performed. They are there to ensure that administration and academic standards are meant through monitoring in schools so if we have just 380 to monitor 10,800 schools, there will not be efficiency and they will not be able to do their job adequately. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will advise the Ministry to consider investing and establishing robust monitoring mechanisms to ensure that we get the relevant feedback from our schools because the Honourable Member from Kono said this document is a data driven document so if we want to get the correct data from the schools then we need to have an additional recruitment of Quality Assurance Officers so that they will have proper monitoring of the schools.

HON. VERONICA KADIE SESAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the time is past 12, I move that S.O 5[2] be suspended to continue the business of the House.

THE SPEAKER: Any Secunder?

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

[Question proposed, Put and Agreed To]

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Mr Speaker, let me make clarification to what the Honourable Member has just said regarding schools because when we talk about school system in Sierra Leone we have what we called the principal supporter which is the

Government and we have what we called the school agencies which are the religious institutions both Muslims and Christians have robust supervision of the schools because they are the principal owners of the schools so they are just supporting them. I know she has a vast knowledge in what she is saying because she has worked for UNICEF but she should also bear in mind that we have other stake holders in education who are always there on top of the situation.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, let me appeal to the Honourable Member to allow the Honourable Lady to continue her debate.

THE SPEAKER: Members, please let forget about Point of Order and just take notes so that when it is your time you would respond to the issues.

HON. RUGIATU R. KANU: Mr Speaker, I will like to respond to Honourable Lamin.

THE SPEAKER: Do not respond to Honourable Lamin, proceed with your debate.

HON. RUGIATU R. KANU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this data that I got from the school census report of 2024, it is a combination of the partners in education including the Ministry of Education so it is not just an ordinary data. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to look in the area of school subsidies because year in year out we have included school subsidies in the Budget but do they translate it to the schools? No! Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our Principals, Head Teachers have become debtors as a result of the late transfer or disbursement of school subsidies and so Mr Speaker we are saying now that it is still in the Budget and we are appealing for timely disbursement of school subsidies to the schools. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also saw something about devolving the functions of education. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to just join my sister yesterday who talked about the functions of centralization of the Councils. Mr Speaker, this Government has strangulated the job of Councils especially the Councils in the Western Area and in the Northern Province. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Councils find it very difficult to even provide their oversight on education even the Education Officers that are attached to the Councils cannot perform their monitoring roles because their

subventions are not forthcoming. Mr Speaker, if we want to allow the Councils to function effectively I think the Ministry of Finance should make it a priority for timely disbursement of subventions to our Councils. We do not want just to see them there but to make them effective.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Budget also talked about the distribution of teaching and learning materials. The distribution of teaching and learning materials is very good because it helps to cushion the burden on parents. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this time we do not want publicity in terms of the distribution of those materials. Mr Speaker, during the previous years they will distribute just 2 or 3 exercise books, and it is all over that they have distributed books to schools, this time round we are asking the Ministry of Education that if they are going to do the distribution of teaching and learning materials, they should ensure that every targeted child has at least seven exercise books. We do not want propaganda this time, we do not want a distribution and then we see propaganda all over Social Media. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we cannot deliver on paper, we cannot deliver on Social Media, we need to see tangibles this time, and so we are closely watching and monitoring the distribution of these teaching and learning materials.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are distributing these sanitary pads to our girls, but is there a privacy to maintain the dignity of our girls in the schools? Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these girls pose challenges when they are maintaining their menstruation, because they do not have the privacy, the cleanliness and the cultural appropriate facilities for them to be able to manage their menstrual hygiene, and in this project there is nothing I have seen in terms of providing water or wash facilities in schools. When you look at the percentage of wash facilities in schools is about 49% of schools without wash facilities, so Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in as much as we are distributing sanitary pads to these girls, I am appealing that at the same time to consider providing the facilities that will ensure that these girls would be able to manage their menstruation adequately.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will move on to the Ministry of Social Welfare, I have seen what is the allocation to the Ministry of Social Welfare, but Mr Speaker, it seems as if we want to forget about this Kush menace because the amount allocated for the rehabilitation of centres for Kush victims my question is after the rehabilitation what next? Leader of Government Business can you please give me the time for me to make my presentation? Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when these people move out of these rehabilitation centres, they are coming back to the community that once disappointed them, the same despair, the same pain, and the same disappointment. What have we done to ensure that we open up opportunities to those drug addicts that are coming out from the rehabilitation centres? I want the Ministry of Finance to take note on that, it is very crucial and essential because we are trying to tackle the drug menace around the Country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will not take my seat without mentioning my community Allen Town. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Allen Town is in the Western Urban District but Mr Speaker, Allen Town has the most deplorable roads in the Western Area and Mr Speaker in 2019, and 2020 they are still requesting in this Parliament and promises were made in one or two of the Budgets but nothing has been done. When you get to Allen Town it is as if we are in the Village within the city, and so Mr Speaker, I am appealing that Allen Town be considered especially in the internal township roads. Presently Mr Speaker, my Constituents are suffering to put resources together to rehabilitate those roads and Mr Speaker as an Honourable Member I cannot get the required support because I do not have the resources and the resources are not provided for me to give that support, so I am pleading that Allen Town community Mayekeneh to be specific that we are part of the Western Area. I thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. JOSEPH BASH KAMARA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you for according me this opportunity to add my voice to this document because all these while I have learnt that most of my Colleagues have not been given the due relevant to this document. This document is merely a proposal, an

intention of what Government intends to service in 2026. It is telling us about how Government intends to raise revenue, how it intends to share the resources to service the numerous problems that we are all crying about in this Well. It is being brought before us so that we can take critical look to see how we could advice on how revenue would be generated to service the various problems but for most of the speakers that I have been listening to, they are just lambasting the document as if it is an Oversight Report or an end of project Report that we have to access its performance. The Budget is telling us how we raise money and the objective of the Appropriation Act to enhance domestic revenue generation to address the numerous problems that we have. The Ministry of Finance proposed to raise domestic revenue. Similarly so, when a gentle man depends on another gentle man's pocket the implementation of his activities would be constrained because the moment the person stops, you are going to stop. I am saying that the Budget Speech is encouraging us to raise revenue in our Country to start addressing all the numerous problems, and this is what we must concentrate on. If we go further, the Ministry of Finance is saying that they want to put strategy in place to strengthen domestic revenue generation. You will find out that if you go to page 5, you will recall that Government has not introduced any new form of taxation; it is merely strengthening the tax administration to improve on revenue generation. There is no way you can expect a Government to service the numerous problems that we are all crying for if we do not have money. How are we going to raise this money? Taxation is a normal thing across the world. Government is going to generate taxes, from the taxes it could then service the numerous problems that we are crying for here. It has clearly stated the strategy it is going to adopt to raise money to strengthen and improve on revenue collection through taxation.

Mr Speaker, additionally, Government is committed to enhancing domestic revenue generation from the mining sector. You will all attest to the fact that in the mining sector a lot of policies have been put in place that is now going to generate funds from the mining sector, whilst these things are approved by us and regularise I assure you that the Government will have reasonable resources to be able to service some of these

problems. And also, it is being said in the Appropriation Bill that Government is committed to enhance the revenue mobilisation from the local sources, and I will share a story with you. You are crying that the Councils have not been given funds to function, and therefore they are not effective, but there is one thing that you are failing to talk about which is the ability of these Councils to raise revenue.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it will surprise you that, one of the best Councils for this year in Sierra Leone is the Bonthe District Council. Bonthe District Council from their own sources revenue has generated so much that they have constructed series of schools that are developing the District. The policy here is, if you are collecting and people do not see how you are spending the money, they will be reluctant to pay, so the District Council in Bonthe as a case in point held meetings with stakeholders and tax payers to explain the situation to them and the tax payers in return have seen and realised the works that have been done out of the taxes that they paid so for that reason the tax base in Bonthe District has increased. Similarly so, like the Freetown City Council, the Freetown City Council has the ability to generate own sources revenue. The own sources revenue base is so great that, when Government shall have put measures in place they will raise their own source revenue so that they will not absolutely depend on what comes from Government and what comes from Government will just be there to add up to what they are able to generate, that is the objective of this Appropriation Act. It is the objective of the Appropriation Act for us to start practicing and putting measures in place so that we cannot be over reliance on donor funding. It will be an additional source of revenue to address our numerous problems. I want this House to understand that social problems will never be solved in haste and even advanced economies are still developing social economic policies.

Mr Speaker, this Budget will continue to address the same problem, the same priority of Government because they can hardly be reached. For instance, a lot of people are talking about roads that have not been fixed, bridges not been built, but to speak the truth, I think every good Sierra Leonean will attest to the fact that there is improvement in food security in this Country. I am not talking about FAO but the practicality is food

security is improving in Sierra Leone. This cannot be done within a very short time otherwise the past 11 years we would have solved all the problems we are crying about in this Country but since the 11 years of the former administration they could not address these problems then we need to have the breathing space for this present Government to systematically put their own measures in place so that we can get where we want to be.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, several things have been said by my Colleagues. This Budget seeks to generate domestic revenue to continue servicing the health sector. We also talked about the energy sector all of you here can attest to the fact that there has been improvement in the energy sector. I need not to say because Masiaka is a case in point, if you go to Masiaka there is light. The President is embarking on light across the nation then we can start negotiating affordability for the poor but when something is not available yet how can you start negotiating for cost? Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you all.

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: Thank you so much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, let me tailor my debate around two primary objectives of the Budget. If you go to page 2 paragraph 7, it says one of the objectives of this Budget is to improve domestic revenue mobilization through tax measures. It says consolidate public finances through prudent expenditure. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the 1991 Constitution part two Section 6 it says the State has economic responsibility to protect ordinary Sierra Leoneans and citizens and ensure that we put the welfare of our people at the centre of every economic negotiation. Mr Speaker, the Minister said this is a pro poor Budget but how can a Budget that claim to be pro poor imposed tax on water a commodity that nobody can do without? Mr Speaker, this is not a pro poor Budget out of all sincerity, it is a pro pain because it is the ordinary Sierra Leoneans that will feel the heavy burden. In line with Section 97, we should not forget that we are the people's representatives; the sovereign power of the Country rests with the people.

Mr Speaker, let me draw your attention to the issue of the Wage Bill as part of the 2018 manifesto. The President said by then our Wage Bill was around 1.9 Billion and the

President now at that time said, it was not a sustainable drive. Mr Speaker, we have moved the Wage Bill to a point that it is now 7.9 Billion consuming over 1/3 of domestic revenue [Undertone]. Mr Speaker, one of the famous promises of President Bio was going to block all the leakages but today what we are seeing is opening of more drainages Mr Speaker according to the Budget Advocacy Network 50% of all the monies is spent on international travels which could take care of our hospital needs. Mr Speaker, during the pre-legislative hearing on the Finance Act the presenter was encouraging us to rally behind our people to pay taxes so that we can finance the development of this Country. Mr Speaker, if we want to achieve our revenue targets it is not by adding more taxes on Sierra Leoneans but the best way could be fiscal management of our expenditures and that is what we are not doing at the moment. Mr Speaker, within one to two weeks the President moved with a private jet to Abuja and from Abuja we saw the President moved to Cyprus. Again, we saw the President and his team moved to New York and from New York we saw the President moved to South Africa for G20.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you cannot use the name of the President in a debate in that manner.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Point of Order. Mr Speaker, let us stick to the issues and the President is the Chairman of ECOWAS so you have to know his responsibilities.

THE SPEAKER: Let me refer to the rules of debate as S.O. 32[10] the President name should not be used to influence the House. We are all Honourable Members of Parliament; I do not expect us as Members of Parliament to rely on the argument of citizens to proffer such argument here. You know that these things could happen if you elect somebody as President that person is the primary representative of the State so he has to travel. He has to go around for the governance of the State to attend several meetings where his presence is needed so let us do not think like the ordinary man out there. We should be far above such argument so let us allow such argument to prevail among ordinary citizens but not here. What do you expect the President to do to just sit down at State House? He is running a State but the problem that we are having with

such travels is because they post such travels on Social Media but former President Ernest Bai Koroma travelled extensively but because his travels were not posted on Social Media so we did not know and nobody commented. The current President wants to be extremely transparent that is why he is posting his travels on Social Media [Undertone]. If somebody is running a State as the Head of State what do you actually expect? Is because I am a Member of Parliament and this is my Chambers and some of these things need to be clarified. Let us not allow the ordinary argument of citizens to prevail here.

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: Thank you Mr Speaker. Like I said we are fulfilling the mandate of our people in line with Section 97 of the Constitution as representative of the people in line with objective 3 of the Budget which says "consolidate public finances through prudent expenditure." Mr Speaker, I will move the debate from the issue of prudent expenditure to Local Councils. Mr Speaker, one major indicator on the MCC and that indicator is effective governance. We always continuously failed to pass that indicator and one of the best ways to ensure citizens have access to efficient and effective service delivery is when you empower the Local Councils. Mr Speaker, this is the only Government on record for not disbursing a single cent to any Local Council in the financial year 2025. Mr Speaker, amidst all of these while the Government is deliberately refusing to finance the Councils efforts have been made to promote, propose or create more Councils whiles we are failing to finance the Councils.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to promote the effort of Government in line with the fight against Kush what we have seen again this year is lack of serious commitment in the fight against Kush and drugs. Mr Speaker, when you add the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency, the Ministry of Youth Commission, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and the Disability Commission is almost the same total amount allocated to the Office of the Chief Minister. These are things we will say and you may not like us for that but we will say them. We are here to fulfil Section 97 of the Constitution. We are here to represent our people and some of these things we will bring them to the table. Mr Speaker, Sierra Leone is now facing a serious drug crisis and it has no colour, no Party,

no Region but today parents are crying after all the investment they have made to their sons and daughters when they go to university they are struggling with addictions. This is not politics and we need to empower the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency.

Mr Speaker, let me continue to add my voice to the road leading to the Makeni Government Hospital. Mr Speaker, this is a regional Government hospital not just for Bombali but for Tonkolili, Falaba and Koinadugu. Mr Speaker, we would continue to plead with Government to ensure they rehabilitate that road for the sake of pregnant women and lactating mothers. Mr Speaker, one of the recommendations we will make to this Government is to ensure we pass the indicator on effective governance. Mr Speaker, for us to genuinely implement the 84 recommendations of the Tripartite Commission is to allow independent institutions to work efficiently and effectively, if we do that we will pass the indicator for good governance. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

HON. GIRILLA SUR MORJUEH: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker Honourable Members, this year's Budget is a guaranty to this nation. When you look at what is in the Budget to enhance domestic revenue mobilization this is a clear indication that as a Country we are serious and resilient to the decline in the official development assistants what we referred to as development partners. If that is declining what do we do as a Country? What is the readiness for us to strive? That is what exactly this Budget is speaking to and we have the figure to justify that. Mr Speaker, I want to thank the Minister of Finance and his team for a very good job done to this document and our Budget Department here for the simplification of this document.

Mr Speaker, the domestic revenue mobilisation to our GDP in 2025 was 17.8 which is about 9.8 to GDP and now we have 22.2 which is about 11.8. Is that not an increase? Is that not a growth? That is a clear manifestation that there was justice to this document and when I listened to my Colleagues from across the Aisle yesterday, ambiguously condemning this document when they did not follow the content, it was so appalling. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am from Tormabum the bread basket of this Country. When we talk about the stabilisation of the exchange rate, I want to

present to this House in my submission that the gains we have made in the 'Feed Salone' which is the flagship project in the Ministry of Agriculture is a testament to that progress. Mr Speaker, before 2025 this Country imported up to about 400 to 500 thousand metric tons of rice, amounting to 200 Million Leones to 240 Million Leones in last year alone. We have had the reduction of about 13% which we have now saving in foreign account about 25 Million Dollars to 30 Million Dollars. That is contributing to the stabilisation of the Dollar exchange rate in this Country and this is what we are doing as a Country. That is a prudent fiscal policy and monetary management we are doing as a Country to take Sierra Leone to another level. Mr Speaker, for Colleagues who have been saying that 'Feed Salone' is a failed project, I want to take this moment to explain to them something they do not understand and thankfully the Chairman for Agriculture Committee we were in Tormabum together. Mr Speaker, we saw the massive investment in irrigation program, four thousand acres of land which will contribute to eighty four thousand tons of rice annually for three times planting, that one is now actualising. Sierra Leone used to export rice but for several years now we saw Government in and Government out in this Country over reliance on importation of rice which is our staple food. Mr Speaker, I want to assure you with this kind of investment in the 'Feed Salone' project in this Country which years to come will be thing of the past. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to proudly submit to this House that the Milling facility that is constructed in Gbondapie will be producing 204 metric tons of rice per day and Tormabum will be producing 312 metric tons of rice per day. Mr Speaker, this is a mega project that this Country is investing in so when we talk about prudent investment with our finances, we are not just talking about rhetoric, we are not just talking about living in the dream but we are talking about things that we can actualise with a deliberate and serious investment. I am proud to be from Bonthe District, I am proud to be from that community and I want to say thank you to His Excellency the President for paying attention to this aspect that will overhaul the entire problem that we have in this Country in terms of our economy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today when we listened to our Colleagues debates, we hear issues of Government is not paying attention to the Kush issue in the Country and that Mr Speaker, if you go through this Budget in 2025 it was about 2.5 Million Leones allocation to the NDLEA and that has doubled to Five Million Leones for this 2026 Budget allocation. Mr Speaker, this cannot be a situation wherein S.O. 2 "Bi ngoli bo han gbowa gii yeyah kee bi kpo hen humbua." In another words, it cannot be a situation wherein when you complain for one thing when this Government addresses then you also bring another thing, you have to concentrate on what are the felt needs. Mr Speaker, in the Five Big Game Changers in 2025 Budget there was 2.3 Billion Leones allocation but this year for a Government in a stringent commitment to the Five Big Game Changers that this Country would be transformed; the allocation has been increased significantly to 3.9 Billion Leones. Mr Speaker, when somebody was questioning the title of this Budget to be a pro-poor, this is the manifestation that this Government is committed to the people of this nation. When the Minister said that this is a pro-poor, pro-business and a pro-national Budget because we are not only concentrating on things people are talking but we have a strategy plan under the medium term national development plan that we are focusing on. Mr Speaker, that is what every serious Government does and this is exactly what President Bio under his leadership is doing in the Ministry of Finance.

Mr Speaker, I want to take this opportunity with your leave to settle this problem of the President traveling. We recently listened to the Budget debate in Ghana when the Opposition was scrutinising the Budget allocation for procurement of fighter jet for the President. Mr Speaker, because this President cares for this Country and he is concerned about the economy situation he could have also done the same thing in this 2026 Budget to procure luxury jet for his travels but Mr Speaker he did not do that, he prioritises his Country.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Mr Speaker, you know we have been very silent in listening to our Colleagues on the other side but the way they are doing now is like complete obstruction to our Colleague. I beg them for the ruling

you have passed, and then let us maintain decorum and some level of undertones please. It is chaotic, he is talking about the Budget please, and in fact Mr Speaker with your leave I want to make some directives. He is my MP I can take his time. Mr Speaker, this time we will force the Government to make sure that what is going on at the Ministries are reflective in our Councils. When I heard my Colleagues talking about no funds remitted to Councils, I am very worried. I am making this submission and if possible we ask for your ruling before we finish of the Budget. We need special oversight on Local Government, now I have with me transfers to Local Councils. Mr Speaker, transfer to Local Councils in the financial year 2025, Bo under education, Three Hundred and Thirty Five Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Two Leones Six Hundred and Sixteen cent, library nothing, Agriculture, Six Hundred And Ninety Five Thousand and Six Leones, Environment, Two Hundred and Four Thousand One Hundred Twenty Four Leones, Primary Health care, Six Hundred and Forty Two Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Five[Interruption], total amount is over Three Billion Leones [Undertones].

THE SPEAKER: Tomorrow I will give you two hours.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, the idea is not Parliamentary to be exchanging words [Interruptions].

THE SPEAKER: In fact what I want you to do tomorrow before you start your debate please make sure you distribute copies to Members.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, what I am saying I made a submission that I am asking for your leave because there are transfers to Local Councils but these facts are questionable by Members. We would make sure with your leave we set an investigation [Interruption]. I want to take your advice very seriously. Mr Speaker, I am taking your advice very seriously [Undertones] please Mr Speaker, I took a leave of you before the end of this Budget process, I am asking for special investigation of the funds.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, Honourable Daniel Koroma what is your problem?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: My problem as you rightly said, apart from your rulings of 15 minutes yesterday, there is a separate rule for rounding up.

THE SPEAKER: Leader of Government Business, make sure your notes are taking, so you response to each point tomorrow [Laughing], okay proceed.

HON. GIBRILLA SUR MOIJUEH: Thank you Mr Speaker. I just want to make a comparative analysis of what is happening in the sub-region, one of the economies today we admired which is closer to us here is Ghana. Recently, they completed their Budget and the Opposition was very solid to critic the area of procuring luxury jet for His Excellency the President. Mr Speaker, today we are only talking about our President traveling, if he is concerned only for himself he could have done the same thing in this Budget by buying a luxury jet.

Mr Speaker, if I have time I would have touched on sectorial progress we have made over the years. Mr Speaker, yesterday one of the Honourable Members from across the Aisle is a member of the Premier League Board and he proudly said it. That is one of the things we have to applaud this Government and the Leadership of His Excellency the President. What we have seen today in the Sports sector we have never seen that in the past 11 years in this Country. Mr Speaker, one of the female players who played in overseas is bringing honour to this Country; it is only now we see sports as a lucrative job under His Excellency the President. Mr Speaker, what then do we complain as a representative of the people of this Country? Let us focus on this Budget. Mr Speaker, this Budget here simplifies what we need as a Country to stand, to sustain and under the leadership of His Excellency the President and the competent of the Minister of Finance and his team we are striving to achieve that. Thank you very much.

HON. MARIAMA BANGURA: Thank you Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Let me thank the Minister and his team for putting together this work. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today we are speaking on a Budget that has a concerning contradictions, and its theme is Enhancing Domestic Revenue yet it plans to borrow 4.4 Billion Leones, it seems to be pro-poor people Budget [Interruption].

THE SPEAKER: Stop interrupting her or I will add her time. You know I told Honourable Members yesterday that when it is a lady please treat them kindly [Undertones].

HON. MARIAMA BANGURA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Government pays more premium on the travel of the President than the allocation that is supposed to be given to NDLEA to fight the drug menace in this Country. Mr Speaker, this is not a question of funds is about priority. Mr Speaker, the Government in power has a resume of selling Low-Cost Housing without replacing them. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if this is really a pro-poor Budget the increment of cement is really unfair to the people of Sierra Leone because it has direct connection to the ordinary lives of the people [Interruptions].

THE SPEAKER: Order, what is it? Hold on, I am going to add her time.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, this is Parliament and we are live because the public is watching us. The Honourable Member just said we have a resume of selling Low- Cost Housing and she did not elaborate on that. I am extremely very confident that this Government did not sell Low-cost Housing, and the Low-Cost Houses were sold by the APC sometimes in 2014 to 2015 [Undertones]. I grew up at Low-Cost, and I benefited from the selling of those houses. My address is N45 Low-Cost Housing Kissy, so those property were sold in 2015 and I bought one so this Government is not on record for selling Low-Cost Housing. I just want to correct that please [Interruption].

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader is okay, after Honourable Tamba Kellie, I will not allow any intervention.

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Mr Speaker, the Leader there is mesmerized by the good looks.

THE SPEAKER: Is alright, Honourable Mariama Bangura please continue.

HON. MARIAMA BANGURA: Mr Speaker, we are prioritising security agency more than the village clinics. There was a video wherein a woman in Koinadugu was carrying on a male shoulder without any ambulance. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we cannot give what we do not have. We are struggling as a nation; we want to have our

own revenue. Mr Speaker, one way to maintain the revenue of this Country is by reducing drastically the Wage Bill. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have the Office of the Chief of Staff, the Chief Minister and the Office of the Secretary of the President, I believe these three offices almost have the same functions. Mr Speaker, the Office of the Chief Minister has so much wherein the Office of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency has a minimal amount. I remember the last Budget allocation the Chairperson for that Agency told us they do not even have a car or a Jeep for their operations. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a drug lord here allegedly by the name of Umar Sheriff. You have to be serious with this because the future of this nation is already in limbo and the sad part of it our kids have been introduced to these drugs mainly in the Universities. Mr Speaker, if we are serious about this considering the trend, we have to reduce from the Office of the Chief Minister and add premium to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency [NDLEA].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in Freetown there is still water crises; I have not seen any serious allocation to address the water situation in Western Urban. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a tax has been increased on bottle water, I think that is an alternative that we have been using in the east part of Freetown. Mr Speaker, the water company has not produced enough for the people of this Country so to say you are putting a tax on bottle water, it is really difficulty for the ordinary man. Mr Speaker, it was really unfortunate for us to hear the Minister saying S.O. 2 "poor man nor dae build ose." Mr Speaker, the houses that are built by rich people most of them are for rent because the poor person cannot afford to build a house. So if the rent is high how do you expect our people to live? We in the Opposition we see this Budget as very much unfair if we are leading the people we need to cater for them and it is ironical to the theme of this Budget. Mr Speaker, as I said this is not about funds, it is about what we prioritise. Let us prioritise the felt needs of the people and avoid the bogus expenditure. Mr Speaker, this Budget makes more provision for members in the Executive than the ordinary man. Mr Speaker, the 'Feed Salone' is not a bad thing, if really what is written is what is going to be done because Mr Speaker, what we are

seeing on paper is not the reality on the ground. Mr Speaker, the Sierra Leone home grown rice is still above Five Leones per cup so I think we need to reduce that amount.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President said he is diversifying rice to egg, and again the egg price is still not going down. It still remains the same price which is Five Leones. Mr Speaker, if we diversify rice to egg why do we have to pay more taxes on egg? Egg is a necessity for our people. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are the people's representatives so if this is a pro-poor Budget let us reduce the tax increment on cement because it has a direct link to the ordinary man's life.

On that note Mr Speaker, let me say again to reduce the budget of the Chief Minister and take the Chief of Staff under the Chief Minister because since the Chief Minister is so powerful you cannot just dissolve that office but to take that money and to add it to NDLEA so that we can treat the drug enforcement issues very seriously. I thank you.

HON. MAHAWA TOMMY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise with great pleasure to participate in this pivotal Debate and I thank you for the opportunity. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there has never been a time in the history of this Country when young people have been trusted with power compared to now. It is only His Excellency the President that prioritized the welfare of young people because he knows that young people can be trusted. Mr Speaker, the narratives have now changed for young people asking to be trusted.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, His Excellency the President has done a lot when it comes to youth empowerment but it is rather unfortunate that the story of youth empowerment is not properly told and it has been reduced to drugs destruction. Mr Speaker, the President has done a lot and it is true everybody has right to their own opinion but everybody does not have right to their own fact. Mr Speaker, I just want to clarify to this House that the Government did not only focus on the fight to eradicate the drugs but the Government has also put measures in place to reintegrate these people into society. Presently, we have 3 rehabs centres, we have one in Daru Military Barracks, in Bo Godama Military Barracks and one in Freetown. We have 40 people in Bo and 53 in Freetown here. Mr Speaker, so far 400 young people are to be

rehabilitated and the Government is using different model because you cannot rehabilitate someone and just leave the person to go into society like that so the Government is working with the Ministry of Basic Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and the Youth Ministry to see that these young people are reintegrated into the society because most of these young people are school going pupils while some are in the universities. So the Government is ensuring that these young people either go back to school, go back to university or to skill training centres so that they can be useful in the society. Mr Speaker, the Government is raising awareness on the drugs issue and a lot of private individuals have shown interest in the issue and now the Government is now receiving help from private citizens. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the fight against Kush or drugs is not an individual fight. It is a national fight for me I say the fight should be a national project. It is not a fight for one Party, it is not a fight for SLPP alone or President Bio alone but it is a fight that everybody should come on board and fight because of that Mr Speaker, the Government is ensuring that the present legislature we have is strengthened with policies to help in the fight. So we are seeing now the Police, the Military are cracking down on these drug lords and the Judiciary is now ensuring that there are speedy trials for the ones that are found wanting and we are seeing now heavy sentences levied on these people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will like to make few clarifications on funds transferred to Local Councils in the financial year 2025. The Bo District Council on education received Three Hundred and Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Two Leones transferred to Bo City Council. In 2025 financial year, Two Hundred and Thirty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Leones was transferred. In Bombali District, Two Hundred and Fifty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred was transferred, in Freetown, Seven Hundred and Sixty Six Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Three was transferred, in Koinadugu District, Two Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty was transferred, Port Loko District, Four Hundred and Forty Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Two was transferred, Tonkolili District, Four Hundred and Seventy Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Eight Thousand was transferred. Western Area Rural, Five

Hundred and Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Four was transferred; Port Loko City Council, Ninety Four Thousand Two Hundred Sixteen Thousand was transferred. Under agriculture Bombali District, Seven Hundred and Sixty Thousand One Hundred and Seventy One Leones was transferred to Makeni City, Two Hundred and Twenty Four Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Two Leones was transferred. Tonkolili District under agriculture, One Million One Hundred and Six Thousand Eight Hundred and Nineteen Leones was transferred. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you are saying the Government is not doing well the records are there. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to remind this House that the fight against drugs in this Country should not be something that we should be using to throw sheds. It is something that should be a collective responsibility because every Government has had its own share in this Country on drug so I will say drug is not a political issue. It is not a religious one, it is not a tribal issue, it is about money and Kush is a menace. The Government is aware that Kush is a menace and the Government is taking steps towards eradicating drugs and if we say we are going back to the days of former President Ernest Bai Koroma there were lots of issues because this is not the first time that drug is surfacing in this Country even the days of Kemoh Sesay as Minister of Transport a whole plane was caught full of drugs in Lungi.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: I do not want to disturb a woman but I will Mr Speaker. I am not disturbing her but guiding her on the fact that she is presenting the issue of Kemoh Sesay that is not in the Budget and other related issues of that nature and she is putting a very bad motive in the debate. We are saying this because we do not want people to start mentioning names and how they are connected to families and you will feel bad.

THE SPEAKER: It is alright; it seems you really want to make people feel bad because you have insisted on people feeling bad.

HON. MAHAWA TOMMY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, from the other side they are saying the Government is not serious about the fight on Kush or they are complaining about the allocations that have been made to the National Drugs Law

Enforcement Agency. Mr Speaker, if you go back to the 2025 Budget allocation that was given to NDLEA compared to the current one you will notice that there is almost 100% increment in their Budget allocation. It might not be enough but that is a step and it shows that there is commitment towards the fight and it is not only the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency that is in the fight against Kush, there are other agencies that are supporting also. Mr Speaker, if you also go to Vote 323 the National Public Health Agency you will also notice that there is also an increment from their last allocations to this one. This also shows that the Government is committed to ensure that the issue of drugs become a thing of the past. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is important that we note that the Government is very particular about young people so if you go to page 35 of the Budget you will see that page 35 paragraph 152 you will see that there are series of programs from the World Bank partners.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will take you to page 37 paragraph 166 that talks about youth employment and sport. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is also an allocation of 49.7 Million Leones to youth empowerment. Mr Speaker, also there is an allocation of 10.6 Million to the Ministry of Youth Affairs including 6.5 Million Leones to the National Youth Commission, 3.3 Million Leones to National Youth Service, 2.3 Million Leones to the Ministry of Sports and 18.6 Million Leones to the National Sports Authority. Mr Speaker, these are all commitments towards youth empowerment and His Excellency the President shows that he is really committed to the issues of young people. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as Leaders in this House we should take responsibility for whatever thing is going on in our areas and by taking responsibility to ensure that we proffer solutions. We cannot be joining our Constituents out there to comment on things that we already know that they are problems and when there are problems we are not expected to be economical with the truth but to proffer solutions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to know that the drugs enforcement agency is really working since October 2022 when the Agency started its operation Mr Speaker, you will know that there is no dead bodies in the street that also we should commend the Government for that. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Agency is working 24

hours round the clock when Members here will be in their homes sleeping or resting they will be out in the street ensuring that they mount up check points, ensuring that they search people especially when it is festive season. You know that is the time that lot of people take chances, so His Excellency the President has done a lot because before now the only empowerment that young people got from this nation was S.O [2] 'for dance debut' that was the only empowerment that young people knew as a time like this when it is festive season. His Excellency the President has shown us that as young people we can do better. We know every young person cannot be ready at the same time that is the reason why some of us are here to tell our colleagues out there as young person you can make it. Let us forget about the ideology that you cannot be in this Country and make it in life unless you travel out of the Country that was why we were seeing Temple run. Everybody was running to go overseas because they thought they can only make it out of this Country. Mr Speaker, Temple run is becoming the thing of the past, because President Bio has shown us that we can do better. Mr Speaker, before I take my seat, let me leave this House with a food for thought that says, "The mantle of a great Leader is not how many followers they have, but how many Leaders they create." His Excellency is creating Leaders and he is leaving a mark. I thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. ALPHA BEN MANSARAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to reference the Honourable Member from Kono who earlier contradicted the Honourable Member from Tonkolili referencing paragraph 157 focusing on domestic project rather than donor driven project. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I heard the Honourable Member from Bonthe talking about the Tormabum project which the Minister of Agriculture was on the Truth Media FM, saying that by January we are expecting 5 tons of rice harvest and by 2026 Tormabum project worth about Thirty Four Million Dollars will come to an end. He mentioned about irrigation and other projects that are parts of the component of that project, and if you check 5 tons is equivalent of 50Kg of rice and 25Kg of one hundred bags of rice so measuring such output of Millions of Dollars is a complete wastage.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me take you to page 36 paragraph 155 that talks about the construction of the road from Moyamba to Sembehun to Shenge, and for me it is good news for the people of Moyamba District. I want to thank His Excellency the President but let me draw your attention back to 2019, forty lots roads were launched and those roads were contracted to domestic Contractors that worth Three Hundred and Nineteen Billion Leones at that time, Moyamba benefited from out of the Forty lots which were the roads from Songo to Rotinfunk, Rotinfunk to Moyamba, Moyamba to Shenge and that of Gbagbato Junction. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the project collapsed and I think the Anti-Corruption Commission must investigate about those roads, so if today again we are talking about graveling roads or reconstructing roads, we pray Moyamba will not be a victim again. We pray the people of Shenge will no longer be a victim again; we pray the Minister of Finance would give a better Contractor for the road between Moyamba to Shenge, because that serves the bread basket of Moyamba because that is where we have fish and salt.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to reference page 34 that talks about Technical and Higher Education. Mr Speaker, with your leave paragraph 139, Mr Speaker Honourable Members, the sum of 152.9 Million Leones is allocated from the current budget to the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education of which this amount 120.9 Million Leones is a Grant to Tertiary Education. Mr Speaker, last year Budget, a huge budget was also allocated as a Grant, but I want to bring to the attention of this House that Universities, Poly-techniques of public institutions are starved and this is going to be a burden to poor parents because if you leave public institutions underfunded you would now give a room for Universities to increase fees and so the Ministry of Finance should really take this public institutions to be a priority. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a Master's Degree is around Forty Five Thousand Leones as of date, and the sharp increment is unbearable Mr Speaker, so if we are to talk about human capital development index let us consider the poor people who are very eager to be educated. Mr Speaker, if we are talking about human capital let us consider the quantitative analysis for other universities in West Africa. We have a very serious man

power gap in the universities because we have less academic Doctors and less academic Professors a Country that is known to be the Anthem of West Africa. I cannot say it is a shame but we need to double up as a Country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me take you to page 26 paragraph 107 that says Government will increase nationwide broad band internet penetration to at least 60% whiles implementing and enforcing measures that strengthen the resilient and security national digital infrastructure. Mr Speaker, as I speak there is a bolling situation bothering citizens. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the data increment and the deterioration of the network quality is unbearable. Few weeks ago, we heard about Parliament summoning Africell, Orange and NATCA to look at the sharp increment from 60 Leones to 100 Leones. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, that one is not good for citizens because we cannot wake up one morning and increase a tariff wherein citizens are struggling to survive. Mr Speaker, I want us to look at this situation very seriously for me I see it as a complete cheat to the citizens because if Aunty Balu living in her village wants to subscribe a weekly data then she cannot subscribe because of One Hundred Leones so I want this House to look at the speech of the Minister of Finance. As I speak the NCRA is currently taking an activity of registering children under age of one year old and they are using the internet which has been fluctuating all the time so let us act as Parliament because our citizens rely on us.

Mr Speaker, there is one strategy the Mobile Companies are using now to subscribe to the weekly data until you have Afri-Money or you have Orange Money. How many citizens have Orange Money or Afri-Money? I should not subscribe directly from just the normal top up but I should go through Afri-Money or Orange-Money that is a digital discrimination. Therefore Mr Speaker, a call for action for this situation that we immediately investigate this tariff increment through NATCA and also this House summons again the relevant stakeholders. We should not sit here and allow our citizens to perish. Honourable Members, we are representatives of our people. I want to thank you for giving me your attention, thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Alpha Ben Mansaray, Honourable Fallah K. Tengbeh.

HON. FALLAH K. TENGBEH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise today in confidence because the Budget placed before this Honourable House is not just numbers on paper Mr Speaker, it is indeed a pro-poor, a pro-business and a people centred Budget. Mr Speaker, it puts the ordinary Sierra Leoneans first, it empowers the business Community and above all Mr Speaker, it protects the future of our children. Mr Speaker, education is free today in Sierra Leone, fuel is down, and rice price is down, making this Budget and the projection to this Budget, indeed a pro-business and a people centred Budget.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me do a few rebuttals, the APC Honourable Members on the other side of the Aisle were shouting about no money transferred to the Councils but Mr Speaker, I want to say this with ease and alacrity that in 2025 transfers were made, they were effected and so their argument is not just wrong but misinformation to the public. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me go to my first debating point, and I will refer you to the extreme of the Budget Speech. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, irrespective of global shocks Mr Speaker; our Government is able to pay salaries on time. We are honouring payment on on-going projects, for the Military, we are providing drugs and uniforms to them and for the Police Mr Speaker, we are also providing fuel, rice, security hardware as well as paying outstanding for vehicles. Mr Speaker, this shows we have a responsible Government in Sierra Leone led by His Excellency President Bio. Mr Speaker, let me bring the issue of Yenga for the urgent attention of this Honourable House and to be specific the Minister of Finance. This Government is on record to have been the Government that has put committed effort in resolving the Yenga issue diplomatically than any other administration in the history of this Country. Mr Speaker, we saw ECOWAS came here in Sierra Leone to outline villages of Yenga on a fact finding mission that shows this Government is a responsible Government, but Mr Speaker, Honourable Members and to you the Minister, please the people asked me to deliver this message that their farm lands are not

accessible and that they are calling on Government, Philanthropists and Non-Governmental Organisations to be supporting them at least intermittently on monthly bases with food items that is a genuine plea I am making.

Mr Speaker, another thing is that when the Honourable Member from Bombali was debating he referred to this beautiful Budget as "gbolan gbolan budget." Mr Speaker Honourable Members, the only "gbolan gbolan" economy was the one APC left with hyperinflation, empty treasure, ghost workers, and debt distress. Mr Speaker, under this Government I want to report with ease that the SLPP has formalized revenue mobilisation. We have cleaned the pay roll, we have digitalized system, and above all Mr Speaker, and we have restored international confidence in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, let me briefly go to my next point which is energy. Mr Speaker, we met energy at 15% access and as it stands today, we are at 36% which means, just where we are now, we have been able to do something like 40% increment that shows we have a steady and stable hardworking Government in the Country. Mr Speaker, with the Energy Compact that has been endorsed by the United States of America, connotes the fact that by 2030 we would have ramped up where we are from 36% access to 78%, so I think President Bio deserves an applaud for that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone economy is finally turning from the corner which means we are improving the basic needs so it saddens to get Honourable Members on the other side, instead of praising this beautiful Budget, praising the economy rather than they are criticising it, and we are expecting them to be positively criticising. Mr Speaker, inflation has dropped, that is a good sign for our Country. Mr Speaker, growth is rising and stability has returned because of President Bio's prudent, careful, responsible and disciplined economic management. Can you clap for President Bio on the other side? Mr Speaker, above all from the previous speakers, this is also a truism that our exchange rate has been stable because if you go to the market the way you used to pay things at a cost of Hundred Dollars [\$100] is what you pay now three month ago, so that shows the Finance team are working and kudos to you Mr Minister and team.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the 'Feed Salone' has boosted domestic food production, this has reduced drastically our import reliance, and Mr Speaker, it has strengthened food security in the Country. That is why we see a bag of rice dropping from a Thousand Leones [1000] to where it is now at Six Hundred Leones [600].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, despite global economic shocks, the Budget remains strong, protecting key sectors and supporting the vulnerable communities. The Budget prepares Sierra Leone for successful completion of the IMF first and second phases review for our credit facilities. This shows as a Country, we are serious. It shows we are credible, and it shows as a Government, we are indeed ready to implement sound economic reforms. Can we give a very big applaud again for President Bio? [Applause]

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me now talk on roads. Mr Speaker, I want to again start by thanking President Bio because I was told here, three weeks ago that my road leading from Buedu to Koidu to the borders of Guinea and Liberia is now waiting for no objection for it to commence early next year, Mr Speaker, that is a very good achievement. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, President has also been considered as the champion for the construction of roads and bridges, and Mr Speaker to celebrate a few, we have the Pendembu-Kailahun Road constructed by President Bio, we have the Kailahun Buedu Road constructed by President Bio, the Funkia-Goderich Road, and bridges Mr Speaker, you have the Magbele Bridge, the Shengbe Pieh Bridge, the Mabang Bridge, the Manorwa Bridge, the Mattru Jong Bridge, etc. Mr Speaker, President Bio is not match to any Leader so far.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Member yesterday was saying we should stop blaming global shocks, and we should not be baby crying. Mr Speaker, global shocks are not excuses, they are facts. Mr Speaker, every economy in the world, from Ghana to the UK, experience inflation, and they experience disruption in supply chain. Mr Speaker, if the Opposition does not understand economics, and they should come here for the basics so that they can start getting themselves prepared to debate. Mr Speaker, in conclusion, I want to say a very big thank you because my Constituency

has been assigned with an ambulance. We have solar powered mini grid. Buedu has got solar powered mini grid and feasibility studies are captured in this beautiful pro-poor and people centred Budget for water construction facility to be installed in Koidu. So these are good things, Mr Speaker, therefore, I want to say this Budget is not about politics. It is about progress and transformation. Mr Speaker, it is about discipline and prudent economic management. It is about strengthening the foundation of modern Sierra Leone. I therefore thank you Mr Speaker for accorded me the opportunity to debate.

HON. IBRAHIM AZIZ BANGURA: Thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me to lend my voice to this all important debate. My name is Honourable Ibrahim Aziz Bangura representing the people of Port Loko District. Mr Speaker, let me on behalf of the people of Port Loko District extend my thanks and appreciation to the Honourable Minister of Finance and his team for presenting this Budget to this Honourable House on the 28th November, 2025, but Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me again applaud the Honourable Minister for the injection of two important components in this Finance Act, and one of them is the submission of the electronic manifest into the ASYCUDA system because it will help facilitate trade because when you input that submission into the manifest I think it will be able to encourage the clearing process of goods within the Port and it will save us time, and also the increment of the storage time at the numeric period from 7 minutes to 10 minutes that is also a very good initiative and it is a step in a right direction [Applaud]. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I understand the rationale of raising revenue, but raising revenue should not be at the detriment of Sierra Leoneans. Mr Speaker, let me now refer this Honourable House to page Six and Seven that talked about tax policies and measures. I think the reintroduction of the 10 Leones on cement, it is definitely affecting the Sierra Leoneans because it will serve as a burden on Sierra Leoneans. If you increase 10 Leones on the price of cement and now the cost of cement per metric ton is \$450 per metric tons, so if there has been an increment on cement, it will definitely going to affect the price of cement. For those that are living in Falaba, it will affect them because the price will end

up going at 200 Leones or 250 Leones and it will also increase the rent cost of houses within Freetown. Cement is not a luxury goods, cement is an essential goods as of now. Also the rising of excise duty on petroleum and diesel is also going to affect Sierra Leoneans because we all know, when prices are being increased per litter on fuel it will affect the transportation cost. It will also affect all other commodities that are dealing with fuel, and finally it also deals with the increment on import duty for Tomato Ketchup. I do not think we have reached at that point for now because the local industry cannot be able to produce all these Tomato Ketchups and Maggie that we thought we are going to produce within our Country so we still need the importation of Tomato into our Country. So I think we should be able to take introspection into these commodities and leaving the cost of this commodity for now and then find another ways where we can be able to increase taxes. I think the best way for now is for us to be able to reduce expenditure rather than increase our taxes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to do a comparative analysis because people are talking about a lot on debts. I want to refer this Honourable House to the Public Debt Bulletin 2024 which was on the Minister of Finance Website. I want to do a comparative analysis between the debts that have been recorded during this last seven years whilst the SLPP Government is in power. When the SLPP Government came to power, the debt was around 17.8 Trillion old Leones, and which is 17.83 Billion new Leones, but from 2018 to 2019 that debt increases from 17.830 Trillion Leones to 21.481 Trillion Leones. It shows an increment of 3.651 Trillion Leones on debt and from 2019 to 2020 there has been an increment also in debt from 21.481 Billion Leones to 27.141 Billion Leones which shows an increment of 5.660 Billion Leones in 2021 it shows that increment from 27.141 Trillion Leones to 31.631 Trillion Leones, it shows an increment of 4.490 Trillion Leones, and in 2022 that increment skyrocketed from 47 Billion Leones to 577 Billion Leones. When you take a comparative analysis between the APC Government and the SLPP Government, it shows during the APC when we were in power for 10 years, we have managed the debt for 10 years to 15 Trillion Leones but for the SLPP, when they are in power for just seven years, they have increased our

debts from 17 Trillion Leones to 52 Trillion Leones and that shows that the APC can best manage our debts than the SLPP.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think the Minister was so magnanimous enough to state some of the projects that they are going to offer, and Mr Speaker, I want to start with the construction of the Targrin Lungi Conakry D Road, for five good years every year this road has been included in the Budget, S.O [2] "all tem den put am nar the budget." Now it has been deferred to 2027 and beyond, what you cannot do in five years or six years will you be able to do it in 2027? I do not think that is possible. Mr Speaker, there is a hospital that was supposed to be constructed in Port Loko for three months by using these preferred materials for that facility to be constructed. That Targrin project also has been deferred to 2027, and Mr Speaker, if you come down to annex 5B that is Roman figure 40 and 41 you will see the procurement of Government ferries. This is a promise that was made by His Excellency the President in 2019 that he is going to procure for us two ferries that would be navigating the water between Targrin and Kissy Terminal, but Mr Speaker; it has now been differed to 2027. Mr Speaker, these ferries are very much important to us. We all know what we have been encountering during the rainy season. When our people are traversing between the Lungi and Freetown, and it is affecting Sierra Leoneans because most times they are traveling to Lungi and it is affecting them when we have breakdown of these Ferries and I want to crave on the indulgence of His Excellency the President to use one of these Ferries because the President most of the times when he is traveling to Lungi, he is using Sea Coach or Sea Bird. Let him try to use one of these Ferries so that he would know the problems Sierra Leoneans are facing. When President Ernest Koroma was in power, he used the Ferries to interact with the people to know their problems but President Bio from the time he came to power he had never used the Ferries instead he is using speed boat that is why he does not know the problems the people are facing. I want to call on him to solve the problem of these Ferries, and the roads leading to Kaffu Bullom because it has been the gate way of this Country. You cannot continue to improve on the Airport and leave the township of Lungi unimproved because Lungi is

the first port of call and the improvement of the Airport should go simultaneously with the improvement of the town ship. I want to crave on the indulgence of the President to see how best he can be able to improve on the roads within the township of Lungi.

Finally, Mr Speaker, there is also the construction of the National Art Gallery that is meant for the entertainment industry. This is a promise that was made by His Excellency the President that is going to construct an art gallery that will be responsible for the screen of films and that of entertainment building that is going to be used by the Musicians. We have Entertainment Ambassador and we have Peace Ambassador, but we should be able to have at least an Entertainment Commission that is responsible to look after the activities of our entertainers. We have now Tic Talkers, Film Producers and Artists. So we need a Commission that is going to be looking at these activities. Mr Speaker, my brother from Kailahun said President Bio is the champion of roads and bridges, so I want to call on him to see how best he can be able to construct the Lungi Bridge. We need it because if you construct the Lungi Bridge, it will help the free flow of people within Lungi to Freetown and it will less congest Freetown. Since he is saying President Bio is the champion of roads and bridges, let him construct the Lungi Bridge. I want to say a big thank you to you Mr Speaker for allowing me to add my voice to this debate.

HON. MOHAMED T. FOFANAH: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say thank you to His Excellency the President retired Julius maada Bio for giving us one of the best Finance Ministers in the history of this Country and also one of the best Deputy Ministers of Finance the woman sitting in front of us today. I know her very well. She worked in one of the very lucrative oil companies in the United States. I know her experience reflected in this Budget. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to join my Colleague Honourable Members from Kailahun and Kono to make certain corrections. Mr Speaker, we are Honourable Members and whatever we say in this Parliament will affect the House. The Honourable Member from Bombali earlier on said not a single cent was allocated to Local Councils across the Country you know that is not true. That is misleading Mr Speaker, I think we have to offer this

document to the leadership of the APC for their Members so that they would be able to look at it and know that for the financial year of 2025, indeed, Local Councils did receive allocations and I will not be wasting my time to go over the figures because the document is available.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Now that he has referred us to a document that he has we really want a copy of that document.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, after your debate please make the copy available to them.

HON. MOHAMED T. FOFANAH: No problem Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when you peruse through this Budget, you will agree with me that, it is indeed a pro-poor Budget because the interest of our people is reflected in this Budget. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for over decades, we have now seen the inflation rate of our Country within a single digit. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, that is an achievement for the economy of our Country under the leadership of His Excellency the President, and we would continue to encourage the Ministry of Finance to continue working on our economy so that we will stay within a single range of inflation in our Country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to take you to page 36 paragraph 157, and it reads, "multilateral development partners, including BADIA and ISDB will disburse \$544.6 Million to finance the construction of several roads including Kambia, Tomparie and Kamakwie Road. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, being an MP from Kambia District, I want to say thank you to His Excellency for including these roads into the Budget. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the construction of that road will be historic to this nation. Mr Speaker, that road will provide a safe travel for our people. It will bring economic opportunities for our people. Mr Speaker, that road will bring us connectivity within regional boundaries. Mr Speaker, the people from Kamakwie, Tomparie to Kambia will be able to navigate with ease. Mr Speaker, people that want to do business, to go to Guinea will use that road instead of going all the way to Makeni, going to Kabala, going to Port Loko and try to access the border. Mr Speaker,

Honourable Members, we want to say thank you to His Excellency for paying premium to the health sector. Mr Speaker, today we see that we have about 1.4 Billion Leones allocated to the health sector and indeed that is a manifestation for His Excellency prioritizing the human capital development in this Country. Mr Speaker, we all witnessed the decreased in the maternal mortality rate by 60% and also the decline of the infant mortality rate. Mr Speaker, from 70 to 56 that is great achievement in our health sector and we have seen how much solarisation has improved our health sector, over 40 health facilities in our Country today has been powered with an uninterrupted renewable energy. Mr Speaker, that by itself gives us hope and restores the confidence of our people that by now we know our mothers and our sisters will not give birth in darkness. Now we know when performing major surgeries in hospitals, we know we can do it without power outage. Now we know that we can save our vaccines. Now we know that our equipment that are used that require energy will continue to operate without interruption.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the very first time in our nation the Government is constructing a cancer diagnosis centre in Sierra Leone. We know the effect of cancer. We know how our sisters, our people are suffering because we do not have a diagnostic tools, equipment facility in our Country. But the President in his wisdom has decided that we need to have one in our Country. So today, Sierra Leone very soon, we will have a Cancer Diagnostic Centre in our Country which also gives other Countries in the Sub Region an opportunity to come to Sierra Leone so that they will be diagnosed for cancer. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, few months ago, the Minister of Health facilitated the purchase of 10 CT scanning machines. That is very huge for our Country, because we know the health challenge that we have. It is in the Budget, Mr Speaker and that is very important because we know the health challenges that we have in our Country. Mr Speaker, we should able to be magnanimous enough to give premium to the health sector because you know; a healthy person is a happy nation. Mr Speaker, the President just commissioned a machine that is called 'Anatomage'. 'Anatomage' was installed in COMAH. Mr Speaker, this is an innovative tech based human table that gives

an incredible platform for our medical students to be able to have opportunity to look through the anatomy of human, and this will give them the opportunity to look at the internal organs of anybody in real time because even within here in Parliament, we have seen Members being flown to India because we do not have these facilities. Mr Speaker, the President has thought it fit that we should bring some of these facilities to our Country because it is important for our medical students to learn how to be able to use some of these equipment before they graduated they should be able to put this into practice. We want to say thank you to His Excellency the President for that and it is in the Budget.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the mortuary in Connaught Hospital has been refurbished. Mr Speaker, they have brought it to an international standard. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, because His Excellency does not only give respect to the living, but also even to the dead. Mr Speaker, today we can boast of ambulances. We have the National Emergency Response Team. Mr Speaker, I was at Bintumani at that time when SLPP was having their convention. A staff of this Parliament benefited from that emergency response. Mr Speaker, somebody had a fracture that would have caused danger but because of that emergency response, they were able to rescue that person and there were more than five other people being rescued. Mr Speaker, we want to give kudos to His Excellency the President.

Finally, I want to look at the Wage Bill. Mr Speaker, I know our Colleagues were criticizing the Wage Bill. Mr Speaker, the Wage Bill in this Budget is 7.9 Billion Leones. Mr Speaker, this would give opportunity to this Country especially in the educational sector to recruit 2,500 new Teachers all over the Country. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we also want to applaud His Excellency the President for the fight he is doing in the agricultural sector. Today, we have seen tremendous drop in the prices of lots of commodities and how we have eased on importation of some of the products we use in Sierra Leone. Thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. JAWAH SESAY: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say thank you to the Minister of Finance and his team, for putting this

document in place with the theme Enhancing Domestic Revenue Mobilization for Sustained Economic Stability and Improved Service Delivery. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am here with the Finance Act, and also again, the Appropriation Act. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Minister, I am Honourable Jawah Sesay from Tonkolili District, representing the people of Sambaia Chiefdom, Dansogia Chiefdom and Kalanthuba Chiefdom. There is a reason why I am still repeating the community that I am representing. Madam Deputy Minister, I wish the Minister of Finance would have been here today for him to know me properly because I am talking in respect of the community that hosts the Bumbumna Hydro, coming from a community that hosts the Leone-Rock Mining Company, I believe that community is the bread-basket of this Country. I would like to quote this one from Gina Makati, he said, "Environmental justice is not just about environment, it is about having equal access to economic growth and making sure that no community is left behind." In this case, for us to host the Bumbumna Hydro and also hosting the Leone-Rock Mining Company, I know when it comes to GDP or economic mobilization in this Country we would consider those areas. And all the time you would see His Excellency the President always naming mining as one of the key sources of income in this Country. You cannot believe the road from Magburka to Bendugu for the past seven years; it is just a promise up till now we have not seen anything yet. I do not know what the people of Dansogia, Kalanthuba and Sambaia have done to this Government. I think we did not do wrong to vote in the SLPP in 2018 for them to have one seat, and they also have one seat again in 2023 but up till now, we have not seen anything. Yesterday, my learned Colleague from Kailahun District asked, what have we done with the CDA His Excellency the President usually gives us? We are so sceptical and technical in handling that one for now because we have known that Tonkolili District has been declared as an Opposition District to this political Party called SLPP Government because for the past seven years, we know there is no hope again. After this Budget, the people of Tonkolili do not have any hope in this Government that is why the CDA that His Excellency the President is giving us, we are spending it technically because if you go to Sambaia Chiefdom, you will see through the Paramount Chief and other stakeholders they are building hotels. You come to

Dansogbia, you will see multiple purpose buildings and when you go to Sambaia Chiefdom, you will see hospital. We also extended it to Student Scholarship.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have seen for the past seven years all the Budget they have prepared we are left behind. So now we know our own budget is the CDA, because when normally we ask them for road construction or for any other facility like infrastructure, they will say we are giving you guys CDA. So our budget for 2026 is the 2025 CDA they are going to give us in March. Tonkolili District connects with so many Districts. When you look at the road from Mototoka to Bo, from Magburka to Mile 91, Mr Speaker, it is so deplorable. Mind you, Mile 91 holds the main road. So therefore in that place we have economic activities. You go to Mototoka to Bo, we have boats. There is still an economic activities going on there. You go to Magburka to Bendu, we have the Leone-Rock. There is still an economic activity going on there. So I think, as a Minister, when it comes to allocation of budget, you should learn to prioritize areas that we are having resources but looking at this Budget, I do not know whether the Ministry of Works before they presented their budget to the Minister of Finance they usually go round the Country and examine the roads. Mr Speaker, recently, I was in Bonthe District, Imperi Chiefdom, when you take the road from Moyamba Junction to Bonthe District is so deplorable, and this is the community that hosted Rutile. So that is why when my Colleague was saying yesterday that His Excellency the President under this Government has constructed more roads than the past Government, it worries me. I do not know where is he coming from? I do not want to say he is lying, but go to those areas today. I know the past Government, they constructed a lot of roads. Mr Speaker, taking a look at the road from Binkolo to Kalanthuba Chiefdom is part of Tonkolili District and they host the Bumbumna Hydro that road is so horrible, people are suffering from that road. Let me take you to page 36 that talks about infrastructure. They have mentioned all the areas that they are intended to construct roads so as I am talking somebody is listening to me, I have a message that I will deliver here again. They asked you a question, what have they done for them to name all these roads? Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Government is allocating to the Sierra Leone Road

Authority [SLRA] 792. 9 Million Leones from the domestic capital budget for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of roads. The amount provided will cover reconstruction of Kabala, Falaba, Guinea border Road, Bandajuma, Pujehun, and so on but Tonkolili is not among this list, it pains all of us. This is so sad, and each time I stand up here, I will still continue to say it. President Bio in his Presidential Speech in 2019, he said he will construct Mototoka to Bo Road, but up till now, this is 2025, seven years in Leadership, no hope for the people of Tonkolili, even my Colleague over there Honourable Fofanah, they can testify to the fact that we are supposed to take 30 minutes from Bumbuna to Bendugu, we are now spending up to six hours.

Mr Speaker, with all these sources of income Government is getting from that place, Madam Minister, if you look at Sambaia Chiefdom; we only have one health centre. The rate at which pregnant women are dying is too high for us, Madam Minister, you need to consider us. Dasogia Chiefdom, the village that hosted the mining company itself, they do not have health centres. Up to Sansagala village to Golia village, those areas they are moving down to Bumbuna Town. I remember in my last campaign I witnessed an accident from Sansagala to Bumbuna. Mr Speaker, this Budget for me, I call it a partial budget. Tonkolili does not have hope in this Government. I would like you in your forthcoming budget, let you consider us when it comes to employment. You know, this Government is proposing or projecting 500,000 jobs. Mr Speaker, when you go to the Leone Rock Mining Company, there is a sub company called BCF, which is about to close, and that company has more than 400 staff. What is the fate of those people? And you are saying you are going to create 500,000 employments.

Mr Speaker, as my learned Colleague said yesterday, this Government has done more than the past Government in terms of road construction. Well, this is very close to you now, the road from Bottom Mango to Wilberforce Village itself called Regent Road. We constructed the Lumley Wilberforce Village Road, we constructed Wilkinson Road. Now you only met the Regent Road to Wilberforce Village even my learned Colleague Honourable Benjamin Turay can testify to that up till now for seven years nothing is

going on there. And this is a community that hosted Africell, Orange, and Government is having revenue from those companies.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, what do you want to say?

HON. BENJAMIN TURAY: The Honourable Member of Tonkolili is talking about Western Urban District.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Honourable Member.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Let us keep to the Law, he has not debated and he has a time to debate.

HON BENJAMIN TURAY: I want to clear allegations Sir please.

THE SPEAKER: What?

HON BENJAMIN TURAY: It is my District Western Urban. When the Honourable Member is talking about Western Urban District, I think when you talk about development; I am passionate about development in Western Urban District [Applaud]. I have done a lot in the 5th Parliament Mr Speaker, if you are talking about initiatives or developments in the Western Urban District, I will not say I am the best but I have done my best. The Honourable Member is talking about Bottom Mango Road, I think that was the road that I am pushing heavily and I want to assure the Honourable Member that before going to 2028 elections that road is going to be completed.

THE SPEAKER: Is alright, thank you very much.

HON. JAWAH SESAY: Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to say thank you to my brother, and I pray that he will continue to push for the completion of that road. I want to thank my brother and please continue the good work; we want to see the Lumley Road, Bottom Mango to Wilberforce Village to be constructed. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me come back again. As I said, we do not have hope in this Budget; one of the hopes Tonkolili District has is the Mining District Development Fund. Since we passed this Act in 2022 up till now Mr Speaker, Tonkolili District has not received

anything called the Mining District Development Fund and this is an Act that was piloted by the Minister of Mines which was very good. We have 19 Chiefdoms in Tonkolili District, although three Chiefdoms host the mining company so they make a provision for the extra Chiefdoms that are within the District. Therefore 20% of the royalty paid to Government should go back again to other Chiefdoms that do not host the mining company. Where is this money today? Come back again to Wilberforce Barracks, you know, my brother can testify also, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when you go to those Barracks, Wilberforce Barracks, Juba Barracks, Murray Town Barracks, all those other Barracks, they do not have good roads, and the worst thing is that the Wilberforce Barracks hosted the CCECC a construction company. I do not know if that is the way they called it. Mr Speaker, I am pleading again to the Minister to consider those people. Back again to Tonkolili Mr Speaker, in terms of the health sectors, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we lack so many things, when it comes to health facilities, going to Kanlanthuba Chiefdom that has 45 villages, only have two health centres Mr Speaker, we have to consider them. Once more, I want to say thank you to Mr Speaker for the time you gave me.

HON. UMU PYNE: Thank you very much Mr Speaker for giving me the chance to add my voice to this debate. I want to start respectfully to acknowledge my sister on the other side that spoke about Free Quality Education. My sister on the other side was very worried about the number of employees that should add to the Three Hundred and Eighty Free Quality Assurance Officers. My sister spoke about sanitary pads, she focused mostly on basic education, but I want her to know that this one is a new issue for Sierra Leone because before 2018 there was nothing like School Quality Assurance Officers in schools. They even do not know about pads or even the wash system. So I think my sister, respectfully, she will actually give kudos to this Government because since 2018 this Government focused on schools to actually build up the quality of our children in schools. I want her to know that the Ministry of Education Act 2004 it was this Government that have reformed and restructured a new Basic Education Bill that was passed here in Parliament on the 19th of June, 2023, and the same goes to my

brother on the other side there, I want to acknowledge what you said about roads concerning Moyamba District. We are all from Moyamba District, and I am here representing the people of Moyamba District. I do not know whether perhaps he had wanted to fill the space on your paper but to know that on the 15th of February, 2025 here in this Well, we passed the Bill an amount of 448 Million Leones, if you can check at paragraphs 154 and 155 you will see that the Bill has been passed and it is in the pipeline. The road from Magban to Sembahun will be reconstructed very soon. The SLRA Director General was here last week, and he spoke with me and said that road should be constructed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on paragraph 185 to paragraph 190 the 2026 Budget is designed to uplift Sierra Leoneans through the Big Five Game Changers with human capital development with the central pillar to inclusive growth and prosperity. This Bill actually focuses on the welfare of our people. It looks at the social infrastructure of our people, access to education and health facilities, even the disables are included in this Bill, the Bill looks at so many things, but I want to focus on health and education.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, from the year 2020 to 2023 this Country achieved major improvements in health indicators like maternity which reduced from Four Hundred and Forty Three [443] to Three Hundred and Fifty Four [354], whilst in 2015 to 2018, we had One Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty [1650] mortality rates. This Government has actually reduced infant mortality rates from 66 to 55 whilst the former Government it was still up to 69. Our life expectancy now has gone up to 62 so we can be proud that senior leaders can live up to 62 but since 2015 our life expectancy was very poor. It was about 55 why? Because Human Capital was not focused, and because quality health facilities were not there, I am a health practitioner. I actually liaise very much with Doctors and DMO in Moyamba. I have been working together with them. We visited areas in our District and Chiefdoms to look at PHUs. Mr Speaker, in 2015 to 2018 there were 1360 PHUs in this Country, but now this Government has raised it up. We have 1633 PHUs in this Country and for Moyamba District, we had only 95 PHUs before

2018 but now we can proudly say we have 113 PHUs. The number has increased because this Budget is focusing on human capital and directly on the welfare of our people. Electrification in PHUs has been very positive. We have 300 PHUs in the Country that have electrification as of 2018 when there were only 80, and even that 80, the Government did not even sponsor it. It was sponsored from a project called solar electrification by Danke Koroma Foundation, but this Government because of focusing on our people in the villages so the PHUs are very well equipped. Mr Speaker, I want to say that Moyamba District is one of the Districts that is mentioned on page 145 that is benefiting from rehabilitation of hospitals together with Pujehun and other Districts. Mr Speaker, if you look at the Appropriation Act 2025 the money which was allocated to the Ministry of Health was 131 Million Leones but in the 2026 Budget the money has gone up to 132 Million Leones. That shows the commitment of this Government and the financial team to see that the Ministry of Health gets what they want.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, paragraph 148, my Colleagues were talking about Wage Bill, but without Wage Bill, how can our workers live? How can our workers survive? Because of the Wage Bill that was projected to One Billion Leones, that is allowing the Ministry to employ 3,000 workers. We all know here that we did not know about pin code before but now it is very popular that our Nurses will be having Pin code. I want to really praise the DMO that we have in Moyamba District. He is a man that goes with his team to most of the PHUs in the villages in the Chiefdoms so kudos to him. Mr Speaker, according to the Minister in paragraph 143 the National Medical Supply Service is given 64.4 Million Leones and that one will boost our medical facilities, especially for the free medical care, 42 Million Leones is exclusively procured for free health drugs especially for our PSUs in our villages. Mr Speaker, the health compact is deepened through the primary health care.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this Government is focused on human capital and development and the Five Big Changer according to paragraph 91 to 95 Government continues major investments in basic education, teachers training courses, and digital electrification of schools. About 800,000 children have benefited from electrification of

schools. In Moyamba, we continue to have an electrification of some of the schools. And I also want to say that, as I have spoken about the DMO, it is the same for the MBSSC workers in Moyamba. They are actually out in the fields, working together with Quality Assurance Officers in monitoring of schools.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I sit down, I want to add my voice to some recommendations which are to increase PHUs staff in remote Chiefdoms in Moyamba District. Expand solar installations in most of the other PHUs that do not have them. Strengthen the drug supplies. Increase District health management team because the DMO has his team, but it is also nice to increase the DHMT, integrate more digital health focus because our pregnant women need to be focused. On that note, I want to say thank you very much to the Minister and his team. You have actually done a very great work focusing on human capital, the Five Big Changers in this Budget is very key. Thank you very much.

HON. ARUNA P. LAKOH: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Today is another day for us and again for this year's Budget is a Budget that we should look at with a critical lens. I have heard the debaters from the other side of Parliament, but when I was listening, something came up in my mind to ask this Honourable House if really we are here to discuss the gains of the SLPP or to discuss the Budget that is in front of us? Because for almost two days now, debaters from the other side of the Well have been discussing the gains made by this Government of which many Sierra Leoneans will not agree with them, but our task here for this week, I think is to debate this Budget and to give recommendations or critical inputs to the Ministry of Finance as to the way they should drive this Country for the next 12 months effective January. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the Minister and his team for considering one of our schools in Tonkolili District. That is the Mathora Girls Secondary School for the first time in seven years a school is mentioned in the Budget throughout the life of the SLPP since 2018 to date.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I read through this Budget, I realized that an astronomical fee of about 39.6 Million Leones being allocated to the Ministry of

Education for the procurement and distribution of sanitary pads for school girls in all secondary schools. I guess this particular activity is the initiative of the First Lady, the 'Hands Off' our Girl's initiative championed by the First Lady. My concern here is, this activity being championed by the Office of the First Lady, is this money going to her office? Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it also surprises me especially when I read through this document, I am still wondering whether Colleague Members of Parliament have actually captured what I have captured as a Member of Parliament that has carefully read through this document. Under Education, page 33 paragraph 135, here we actually saw the breakdown of monies that will be spent on Basic and Senior Secondary School education. Subsidies were allocated under this paragraph for school feeding program. Subsidies are allocated for the procurement of sanitary pads. Subsidies are allocated also as a grant to schools for the physically challenged. Subsidies are also allocated for Junior Secondary Schools and the payment of WASSCE and BECE examinations, but no subsidies are allocated for the payment or school fees for Senior Secondary School. I do not know if it is an aside or a mistake but I have carefully noted all of the activities or programs that are supported under the Basic and Senior Secondary School education.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we know human capital is a program that has been championed by this Government and they see it as a critical program for nation development. We have seen something that is a mismatch of what they are pushing for by eliminating a critical component in the basic education sector by not paying school fees for Senior Secondary Schools for 2026. I think, Madam Minister, I want you to note this one and see if it is a mistake or it is something that you have decided to do as a Ministry of Finance in this Country, we know budgeting is the first step to financial freedom. If actually this Government is not particular in supporting programs to enhance development for the people of Tonkolili, but they should consider they also have supporters in Tonkolili District. They have people that have sacrificed for them. For seven years Tonkolili remains to be neglected and is the bread basket for this Country because we are contributing to the social economic development of this nation.

Mr Speaker, I want this Government to know that, you have Party members who have done their best in making sure that this Government remains in power and if you are not doing for the masses of Tonkolili District, do something for them so that they will be proud to say we have a Government, but it is sad for them. We are in pity for them for the sacrifice that they are making. You are always neglecting this District countless of its contributions. Last year, again, in the last Budget here, they mentioned to develop one of the most attractive areas in Tonkolili District Kolifa Mabang Community. They have a big factory there that was constructed by the late Paramount Chief. In the 2023 Budget, you mentioned that you are going to improve that place up to this time; a single block has not been laid in that place. What have we done as a District?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is the third time I am debating the Budget here, and some of these things keep coming year in year out but Tonkolili is always not in this particular program. Mr Speaker, paragraph 56 says the amount will also cover under roads and bridges the rehabilitation of city and town roads in Bo, Kenema, Magburaka, Pujehun, Mattru Jong, Bonthe, Kambia, Makeni, and Western Rural and Urban and key streets and roads targeted in the Western Area including Macauley Street and High Broad Street at Murray Town. It is really sad because if we are thinking how we are contributing to the GDP of which those monies will be taken from these communities, I see no reason why Tonkolili should be neglected. We have the biggest mining company now in the Sub Saharan Africa which is the Leone Rock. If you have mentioned all of these towns to be supported on road construction, why not Magburaka the town I came from? What have we done?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Magburaka is starved with water supply. We have areas that need water supply; the only source that our people are benefiting from is now contaminated by illegal mining. The Honourable Member from 91 has persistently calling on this House to pay keen attention to the Rokel River. Up to this time, we have not given the attention required and that is the only area our people from the riverine areas are depending to get water. If this particular river is not given attention, there will be a time that even the hydro that we are boasting of will collapse.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to look at the youth. It is a broad area that needs to be discussed considering what has happened in the Country. Is it fixed that every year we just give 5 Million Leones to the Ministry of Youth? Is it fixed that every year we should give 17 Million Leones to the Ministry of Social Welfare, considering of what is happening now in this Country? Yesterday when coming to this place, I met a lifeless body between Shell and Wellington today again the same time I met a body there. Last week I visited three rehabilitation centres. I visited the Hastings Rehabilitation Centre, the Godema Bo Rehabilitation Centre, and the Kailahun Daru Rehabilitation Centre. Mr Speaker, the stories are so many but I do not have time to explain them. Mr Speaker, I think we should increase the Budget for the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Youth. I thank you all.

HON. HAWA KALLON: Thank you very much Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to this debate. I also say thank you to the Ministry of Finance for working on this fine document. Budget is a process having been senior Administrator for over 40 years; I have sat down in budget meetings year in year out so I want to take this opportunity to thank the Ministry and the team. I read through this Budget urgently and I picked out two areas that I am going to debate on and that is health and social services because that is where my expertise lies. Only a sober Government will want to put health first because health is wealth. I visited the Pujehun District Health Centre over the weekend because I had donated 40ft container of medical equipment to that centre. I visited them just to oversee the use of the health supplies I sent there has been going on and I was amazed. The health centre now has 24 hours of electricity. We are now boasting of surgical centres that are well equipped. So I was very pleased. And when the Doctor informed me that they are building another centre in Zimmi and another centre in one of Pujehun Townships around I know that we are going to have three hospitals in Pujehun District so we want to say thank you to the Government and to the Ministry. I also saw the social services under the rehabilitation of our addicts, I was pleased. But if you do not pay attention and realize that our brothers and sisters that are taking Kush are addicted and they need

help, nothing will happen. Addiction is real, and so many of us are addicted to so many things. So when it comes to addiction, let us do not play politics with it. Addiction is real and we should not make those who are addicted feel ashamed to ask for help. The Bible says when you ask, and then you shall receive. But if we put shame on them, then they will shy to ask. It pleases me that our brothers and sisters are going to be rehabilitated and integrated back into our communities. I will love to see a success story an addicted person will come out and become a representative in their area or become a Principal or a Lawyer, because if they are rehabilitated and they have given treatments through therapy, I know they will come back and be good citizens, and that is what this Government is hoping for, and I say thank you for involving them and including them in this Budget.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I want to talk a little bit about agriculture and the 'feed Salon' program because I am a farmer.

Suspension of S.O. 5[2]

HON. HAWA KALLON: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other side yesterday was talking about the cost of pepper and pepper is now Five Leones per cup. Honestly, I never knew the cost of pepper because I plant pepper and I would just go behind my house and pick pepper and cook it. We have over 100 Honourable Members in this Well, if everybody is doing their own bits and we are not given lip service to 'Feed Salon', Sierra Leone will be fed by us all.

Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member from the other side was criticizing the NRA and calling them all kinds of names but it is us in this Well that has given the NRA mandates to do their job. And if in doing their jobs, we do not give them the support, but we ridicule them, then we are telling the citizens not to also work with them. I think it is very saddened because the Commissioner General of NRA Mrs Jeneba Bangura is a very hard working woman. I have worked with her before now, and I know she is very serious in whatever responsibility she is given to do. So let us support her, and let us support the NRA to do the needful so that the Budget will be fulfilled.

Mr Speaker, on that note on road construction the Kenema-Zimmi Road is a death trap and that road leads to international highway. Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity and thank you to the Ministry of Finance for putting this fine document together. It only takes a responsible Government and a sober Minister to get a document like this for us, and I will just say to my fellow Members, let us do due diligence and let us approve this Budget and get the Government to work.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Hawa Kallon you are my last Debater for today. Thank you very well.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Members of the Parliament Commission are hereby notified that, there will be a meeting on Monday, 8TH December, 2025 at 11 A.M. in Speaker's Conference Room.

Honourable Members are kindly invited to attend the seventh anniversary of the Hands Off Our Girls campaign and launch of building resilience campaign for 2025. The match will take place on Saturday 13th December, 2025 commencing at 10:30 A.M. with a procession from Bottom Mango to the Hockey Pitch. Members are encouraged to attend and on time.

THE SPEAKER: Leaders, please be informed that tomorrow I will take two from each side so choose those you want to debate tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

MR SPEAKER ADJOURNED THE HOUSE TO FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER, 2025

AT 10:00 A.M.

THE HOUSE ROSE AT 2:06 P.M.

