



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

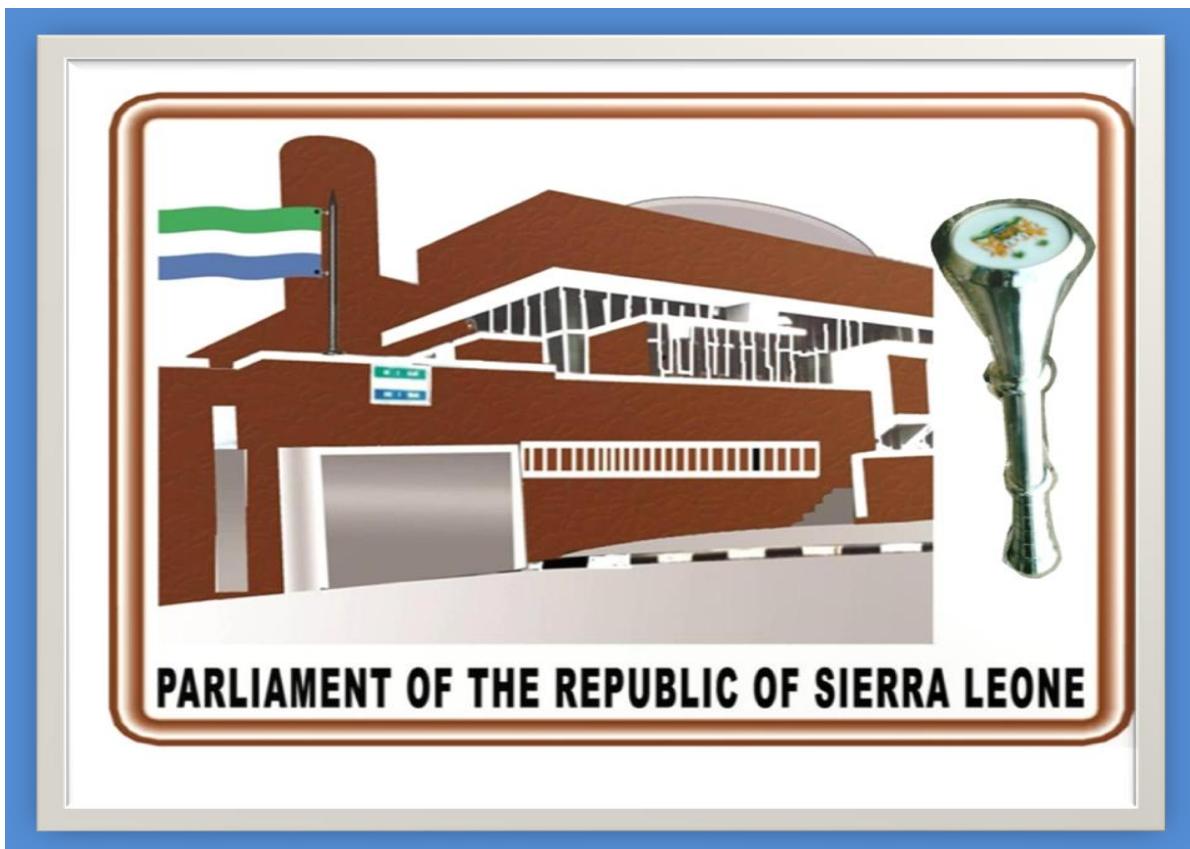
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION – FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 19TH DECEMBER, 2024

SESSION – 2024/2025



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Tuesday, 19th December, 2024.

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HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER, 2024**

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THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Tuesday, 19th December, 2024.

I. PRAYERS

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

[The House met at 10:15a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

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

The House was called to Order

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

II. THE RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER, 2024.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the Record of Votes and Proceeding. Pages 1 to 4?, Page 5?, Page 6?, Page 7?. Can a Member please move?

HON. JOSEPH LAMIN WILLIAMS: I so moved, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any Seconder?

HON. MOHAMED BILLOH SHAW: I so Second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

[The Record of Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday 18th December 2024 has been adopted]

THE SPEAKER: Leader of Government Business, can we proceed?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Colleagues, sorry for coming in late due to circumstances beyond my control; I was trying to solve one or two issues. Mr Speaker, after the consultation with you, the Clerk of Parliament and the Chairperson for Trade, I want to amend the Order Paper. On that note, I move that item 5 on the Agenda be expunged. All other items, starting from Prayers to item 4 which has to do with Government Motion remain the same. Item 5 should not be Roman Number one[i]. It should be Item [5], the Appropriation Act, 2025. Mr Speaker with the amendment proposed, I so move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder.

HON. IDRISSE MOIWAI DAUDA: I so Second, Mr Speaker.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To].

[Motion for amendment of the Order Paper moved by the Leader of Government Business has been carried]

III. MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENT AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, the Second Session of the 6th Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone; the 4th Report of the Committee on Appointment and Public Service on Parliamentary vetting of Presidential nominations, December, 2024

The 4th sitting of the Committee on Monday 9th December, 2024, in tandem with the above therefore, the Committee interviewed the following Presidential Nominees on oath:

I. INTRODUCTION

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service that is charged with the responsibility of vetting Presidential nominees to serve in such important offices of state, met on **Monday 9th and Tuesday 17th December 2024**, and interviewed **twenty** nominees for the following appointments

- i. Two** Ministers
- ii. Seven** Ambassadors/High Commissioners
- iii. Eleven** Chairpersons of various Boards of Commissions /Parastatals ,**and**
- iv. Six** ,Board Members/Commissioners

II. PROCEDURE

The Committee conducted its hearing within the usual framework of procedures and interviewed the nominees on issues pertaining to their backgrounds to ensure that they have the required education and proven track records in pertinent work situations for such appointments to important offices of State. Further probing questions put to the appointees covered wide ranging issues relating to declared assets, tax obligations and their visions for productive tenure, Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also closely looked into by the Committee.

III. Fourth Sitting of the Committee on Monday 9th December, 2024

In tandem, with the above therefore, the Committee interviewed the following Presidential Nominees on oath:

- 1. Mr Philip Bob Jusu-Proposed Ambassador Sierra Leone Embassy ,Brussels Belgium**

Mr Speaker, and Honourable Members, Mr Jusu brings over fifteen years' experience in Diplomacy, International Development, Geopolitics, and Public Policy. Mr Jusu started his international career with the Refugees Resettlement Programme in New Zealand and then later transitioned to the United Nations Mission Stationed in Kosovo in 2009.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the nominee holds Degrees from several prestigious internationally acclaimed Universities and Institutions , including the University from the United Kingdom, University College Dublin from Ireland, University of Groningen from Netherlands, the University of Waikato from the University of New Zealand and from Fourah Bay College, the University of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members at the time of his appointment, he served as Manager, Africa Strategic Partnerships of Google, where he cultivated and strengthened relationships to advance Google's objectives in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Nominee was lauded by the Committee for his solid academic credentials and wealth of experience in the field of Diplomacy. He was advised to help Sierra Leone regain her voice in the field of Multilateralism and Geopolitics.

On the perennial issues revolving around the emigration of our nationals to Europe, Mr Bob Jusu said, he has plans to work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Immigration Department and the Belgian Authorities to ensure migrants have correct documents for entering into the European Union Countries.

2. Lieutenant General Rtd Peter Kakowou Lavahun-Proposed High Commissioner to the Republic of Kenya

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Lieutenant General Rtd. Peter Lavahun is a highly motivated ,experienced and results oriented military officer with distinguished record of selfless and loyal service to the state, spanning over three decades. He has wealth of experience in command and leadership cadre in the management of defense and preserving national security. Rtd. General Lavahun has successfully served in various military appointments for over a considerable period of time, representing the Ministry of Defense /Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces at Local and International fora.

Rtd. General Lavahun holds a Bachelor's Degree from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone and a Master's Degree in Peace and Development Studies from Njala University College, and another Master's Degree in Military Science and Strategic Studies from the National Defense University from the University of China. Before his recent appointment, Rtd. General Lavahun served as the Chief of Defense Staff responsible to provide command and control of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces.

Commenting on his adaptation to the diplomatic world after a lifelong service in the military, the Nominee said '*In the Army, as you move up the leadership ranks, you are taught diplomacy, leadership and strategic management. My transitioning to the world of diplomacy essentially means representing and articulating the position of the Government of Sierra Leone on bilateral and other official engagements. I want to assure this Committee that if approved by this House, this role will be performed with patriotism*', he concluded.

He promised to work closely with Kenya Authorities to strengthen the already existing ties between Sierra Leone and the Republic of Kenya to market our Country to deserving investors.

3. Dr Mohamed Kanja Sesay: Proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Paris, France

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Dr Mohamed Kanja Sesay is a fine gentleman with vast knowledge in International Politics and Relations. From April 2024 to date, he served as a staff of the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, New York, United States of America. During this period, he represented Sierra Leone's Permanent Mission in matters relating to the UN Security Council Sanctions Committees where he served as a lead in providing technical advice on matters relating to peace, security and governance issues. His rich profiles revealed the following:

From January 2015 – April 2024: Political Affairs Officer, United Nations Secretariat Department

September 2012 – January 2015: Associate Expert, Political Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, Department of Political Affairs

September 2012 – January 2015: Associate Expert, Political Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, Department of Political Affairs

June 2012 – August 2012: West Africa Programme Coordinator, Open Society Foundation Youth Initiative, Dakar, Senegal

April 2011 – May 2012: United Nations Volunteer Country Coordinator for the ECOWAS Volunteer Programme (EVP)- Monrovia, Liberia.

Responding to probing questions on the strengthening of bilateral ties between Sierra Leone and the Republic of France, Dr Sesay said '*The relationship between Sierra Leone and France is a win-win situation for both countries. Sierra Leone has huge investment opportunities and France is one of the destinations of those investors. If approved by this Honourable House, my main focus would be to build on the already existing ties and organize investment conferences to accelerate economic growth and development*', he concluded.

4. Retired Major General David Fred Alpha: Proposed Deputy High Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commission, Abuja, Nigeria

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Retired Major General David Fred Alpha is a highly motivated and experienced retired Senior Military Officer with 32 years of outstanding service to the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces [RSLAF] and the nation. He is a proven leader and a battle tested Commander that developed strategies to meet Mission objectives. He is an accomplished Officer with a strong sense of nationalism, patriotism and expertise to develop and design operational plans and policies. He is an adept communicator with extensive background in military leadership and security issues.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, over the past 32 years, Retired Major General David Fred Alpha services revealed the following:

2022 – 2024: Commander, Joint Forces, Cockerill Barracks, Freetown, where he exercised full Command and Control over Joint Military Operations (JMO) involving land, air and Maritime forces within the RSLAF. He and his gallant soldiers successfully repelled unknown assailants from overthrowing the democratically elected government on 26th November 2023 with enormous leadership and bravery thereby sustaining major injuries in the process.

2020 – 2022: Commander, 3rd Infantry Brigade, Freetown

2018 - 2020: Commander, 4th Infantry Brigade, Makeni

2014 – 2017: Director of Defense Logistics and equipment, Ministry of Defense, Freetown

2013 – 2014: Chief of Operations, UNAMID Sector West, Darfur, Sudan.

Major General Rtd Alpha promised to work closely with his substantive boss and was praised across party lines for his remarkable career in the Military. He was admonished by the Committee to proffer advice on military agreements between Sierra Leone and Nigeria

5. Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara-Proposed Deputy Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary-Paris, France

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara is a Media Executive and Professional with over seventeen years' experience. She possesses a strong background in working with development partners and international organizations including the United Nations Development Programme, World Bank and International Finance Corporation .She has knowledge on current events, industrial trends, public policy and gender issues .

The nominee is a holder of a Diploma in Mass Communications and a Master's Degree in Media and Communications from the University of Leicester from the United Kingdom. Prior to this appointment, Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara she served as Deputy Minister of Information and Communication [2019- 2021]; Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Corporation [2021-2023], and served as Director at the **Feed Salone** Project, Office of the President.

In assuring Members of the Committee on maintaining a stronger relationship with the republic of France and other accredited mission, Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara said '*The Mission to France and other accredited nations will benefit Sierra Leone amongst which the prospects of issuing Schengen Visa in Freetown will strengthen diplomatic relations with other nations surrounding France*', she concluded.

6. Mr. Kalilu Ibrahim Totangai-Proposed Deputy Permanent Representative [Political], United Nations

Mr Speaker, Honourable Mr Kalilu Totangai is a highly motivated strategist, programme developer, educationist, communication expert and media professional with more than 18 years' experience in public service. He possesses broad range experience in advocacy, civic education and stakeholder mobilization for national development.

The nominee holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Sierra Leone and a Master's in Fine Arts from the Howard University in the District of Columbia.

Prior to his appointment, Mr Totangai served as Executive Chairman of the National Council for Civic Education and Democracy, responsible for the recruitment of Administrative Staff, and led the propagation of national values through civic education. He supervised the development of the Civic Education Curriculum for adoption into the Basic Education school levels.

Commenting on his role at the United Nations, Mr Totangai opined that ‘most of what happens at United Nations is political. I will be representing Sierra Leone at the United Nations deliberations and negotiations particularly in the U.N. Security Council and General Assembly to clearly articulate government position at the global stage. I will be also providing policy advice to the President, Minister of Foreign Affairs and lead the United Nations Mission at meetings as directed by the Permanent Representative,’ he concluded.

7. Mr. John Abu –Proposed Resident Minister Southern Region

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr John Abu has over twenty-five years work experience with reputable Institutions and Organizations with proven leadership ability, both in the public and private sectors. He holds a First Class in Sociology and a Master’s Degree in Rural Development both from Njala University College, Sierra Leone.

Before his appointment, Mr Abu served as the Regent Chief of Kpanda Kemo Chiefdom in Bonthe District.

The Nominee was praised across the aisle for his astute knowledge in Local Government Administration. He was further admonished to work closely with Local Councils to ensure development and maintains laws and order in the Southern Region.

8. Mr Raymond Katta-Proposed Chairman-Produce Monitoring Board

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Raymond Katta is a programme and Human Rights Specialist with over fifteen years spanning experience in planning, developing, and administering programs and projects in the public and non-profit sectors. He has skills to implement strategies to increase program performance in service delivery. He has proven expertise in leading public sector reform initiatives.

This distinguished Nominee holds a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies from Westfield State University, Westfield in 2006 and a Master’s in Human Rights and Democratization /Global Campus in Venice Italy in 2015 and later did another Master of Science in Human Services with specialization in Leadership from Spring Field College in Spring Field.

Prior to his appointment, Mr Katta served as a Lecturer at the Institute of Public Administration and Public Management, and Senior Director of Programmes at the National Commission for Social Action [NaCSA].

In his response to questions on what will be his key deliverables if approved, Mr Raymond Katta said, *‘revamping the value chain at the Produce Board would be my main aim. As a*

Board, we would advise the Management to maximize shareholders' value and interest whilst taking into consideration the interest of all stakeholders within the Agricultural Value Chain to enable the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company export quality products for rapid economic growth', he concluded.

The Committee advised the Nominee to draw on his wealth of experience to encourage Management to expedite reliable market linkages to financing smallholder farmers to boost our economy.

9. Mr. Moses Lloyd Jonathan Williams- Proposed Chairman, Statistics Sierra Leone Council

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Moses Lloyd Jonathan Williams is a career Statistician with a plethora of experience in Population Statistics with nearly four decades spanning working experience at the Statistics Sierra Leone, and the then Central Statistics.

He holds a Master of Science Degree in Statistics from the Njala University in addition to other professional Certificates to his credit. He held several Administrative positions creditably leading to the conducts of our National Population and Housing Censuses. He is a diligent, result oriented and unassuming professional that caters for holistic institutional growth. In 2018, the nominee was appointed Chairman of the Statistics Sierra Leone Council, the position he held till the expiration of the tenure with much progress.

The Committee reaffirms all earlier recommendations made in the Fifth Parliament for renewal of his Chairmanship at the Statistics Council.

He also promised to advocate for more modern methods of conducting Housing census for sustainable development.

10. Mr Joseph Munda Bindi –Proposed Chairman, National Council for Civic Education and Democracy [NaCCED]

Mr Joseph Munda Bindi is an Educationist, a Development Expert with special interest in Quality Environmental Development. His name rings a notable bell within the Local Governance Decentralization Sector, where he served as a two term Chairman for the Bo District Council [2012-2023], and worked assiduously to promote the peaceful coexistence of communities through development projects.

Within this tenure, and because of his quality leadership, he served as President of Local Councils Association of Sierra Leone since 2018. As a President, he served as member of the steering Committee that helped the Ministry of Local Government to review policies on

Decentralization. Amongst his lofty resume'; 2019-2024, he served as Commissioner of the Teaching Service Commission [TSC], a Member of the Boards of Sierra Leone Water Company [SALWACO], Legal AID and Secondary Schools in Bo District.

He holds a Master Degree in Environmental Management and Quality Control from the Njala University [2015]. The Committee adjudged him as a seasoned Administrator always desirous of timely and quality output.

Addressing the concerns of the Committee on cascading the concept of Civic Education to the General Public, the Nominee said '*Civic Education is key in raising patriotism and awareness among citizens. Our strategy is to reach out to the Nursery and Primary Schools to inculcate in the Children patriotism at that level*', he concluded.

11. Mrs Lettitia Jah Mensurah- Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mrs Lettitia J. Mensurah is a Clinical Laboratory Scientist with credible work experience at the California Pacific Medical Centre ,San Francisco CA [1995-2010], Toxicologist [2012-2017] at the Kaiser Regional Laboratory Richmond CA, where she analyzed serum and body fluids and performed other standard procedures for quality treatments.

She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with emphasis on Clinical Sciences from the University of San Francisco, and she is a Member of the American Associations of Clinical Pathologist [1982]

As a Scientist, she believes in quality output as a drive for institutional growth which she promised would be her hall mark on the Commercial Bank Board.

12. Mr Lansana Konneh- Proposed Chairman, SierraLeone Telecommunications Company [SierraTel]

Mr Lansana Konneh is a pragmatic politician with adept Engineering and Project Management Leadership skills that enhanced his successful work career path at the following institutions:

2018- 2022: International Global Solutions [IGS], Freetown- as a Director of Operations in charge of Monitoring and Regulatory Compliance;

2013- 2017: As a Supervisor for the Community Agricultural Development Association ([CADA-SL] that supported Small Scale Farmers within Western Rural and beyond.

He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 2021 and maintains a revered personality within the Elder's Caucus of the ruling party. He holds an Engineering Certificates from the City and Guilds Institute, London.

Answering to questions on the resuscitation of the Sierra Leone Telecommunications Company to have competitive edge in the global market, Mr Konneh said, '*the Company has hopes of regaining her former glory if the government of Sierra Leone can allocate a special budget for Research and Development, and hire highly motivated staff. SierraTel is almost moribund and requires saving the lives of Sierra Leonean that served diligently at the company before the insolvency*', he concluded.

13. Dr Wusu Sannoh– Proposed Chairman, National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency [NAMED]

Dr Wusu Sannoh hails from the Kaiyamba Chiefdom, Moyamba District. He is a renowned Scientist and Educationist, a seasoned Administrator and a skillful Development Expert. His departure from the teaching class to assume the position of **Mayor of Bo City** [2008-2012] brought huge impetus to the Decentralization process. His astute leadership helped the Decentralization Secretariat headed then by the current Secretary to the President, to tailor out policies on which our Decentralization process is thriving today. At the Bo City, the structures and cleanliness still being maintained reverberates the good work of this nominee.

At the Njala University, he lectured Chemistry [1979-1991] at all levels with diligence and produced excellence cumulative results over the years.

The nominee holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry from the University of Ibadan. The Committee adjudged him as a fine academician that can excel anywhere due to his transparent human relations.

Commenting on the importance of Monitoring and Evaluation in ensuring quality government programmes and projects, Dr Wusu Sannh said, '*Monitoring and Evaluation are key to ensure government programmes are implemented within the expected time frame. As Chairman if approved, I will draw a holistic blue print to monitor all government programmes. I am also planning to work with the management to provide expertise in areas where they lack, and*

proffer advice to Ministries, Department and Agencies to expedite the NAMED Programmes', he concluded.

14. Mr Joseph Jonathan Ndanema- Proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Water Company [SALWACO]

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Joseph Jonathan Ndanema has more than 40 years' experience in development programme planning, implementation and advocacy in poverty eradication. He is a strong campaigner for policy, knowledge, attitude and practice change to help the poorest of the poor. He is a Value Chain analyst, food security and poverty alleviation expert, Researcher and project cycle management expert who has contributed to several organizational development and planning processes.

Mr Joseph Ndanema enrolled in Njala University College in 1976 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture General in 1980. He later obtained a Master's Degree in Agricultural Economics and Sociology with strong Rural Development electives from the University of Giessen, Germany in 1991.

From 2019 to date, he is Chief Executive Officer, Investment Forum for Community Development, and in April **2018 – 2019**, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Republic of Sierra Leone, where he supervised multilateral funded programmes, including World Bank, IFAD, Islamic Development Bank, African Development Bank etc.

Responding to the concerns of the Committee on the perennial water crisis, especially in the city of Freetown and how he would address that, the former Minister pledged his commitment to restoring the past glory of SALWACO.

The Committee advised the Nominee to expedite opening of the Company in all major towns in the Country. He was further admonished to provide policy guidelines to ensure there is clean, affordable and accessible water supply to the general public.

15. Mr Alusine Kargbo- Proposed Commissioner, Northern Region, Local Government Service Commission

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Alusine Kargbo is a distinguished personality who has served in various facets of developments, including Education, Mass Communication and

Disaster Management. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and English from Fourah Bay College. At NERCOVERC, he served as Media Analyst, providing regular factual and credible information to the public. At the then National Telecommunication Commission, now NATCA, he served as General Service Officer. From 2022 to date, he is Senior Disaster Officer at the National Disaster Management Agency.

Mr Kargbo was admonished to work collaboratively with the Chairman to review the transfer of Council Staff. The Committee unanimously recommended that for every transfer the Staff should have taken at least three years in his previous location.

16. Ing Kenelm Walter Hughes-Proposed Board Member, Electricity Generation and Transmission Company

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Ing. Kenelem Walter Hughes is a Mining Engineer with over twenty years' experience in Processing Plant Operations, Engineering Administration, Training, Development and Leadership skills. Ing. Kenelm Walter Hughes is a holder of a Bachelor Degree in Engineering with Honours in Electrical Engineering, and a Master's Degree from the Walden University in Management from the United States of America.

The Nominee is currently serving as the Vice President of the Sierra Leone Institution of Engineers. Prior to this appointment, Engineer Hughes served as the Mining Manger of the Sierra Rutile SL Limited, responsible for the daily management of shifts and of all operational activities at the Wet Concentrator Plant .This role includes communicating and ensuring that key safety and operational targets are met, while also supporting achievement of quality and recovery targets in collaboration with the Metrology Department.

The Committee admonished the Nominee to work collaboratively with Chairman and other Board Members to address the existing challenges faced by the Energy sector by developing sustainable energy solution blue print for the Management and the Ministry.

17. Dr John David Cooper- Proposed Member, Electricity Generation and Transmission Company

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr John Cooper is a performance driven professional with over ten years' experience in Industrial Research Systems and Network Engineering, with proven interests in Communications and Information Technology, Management, Mining

Policy and Geographic Information Systems. He is adept in preparing and presenting technical documentations.

Mr Cooper holds a Bachelor Degree in Electrical Engineering from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, a Master's Degree from the University Agder from Norway and a Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration from the Trident International University, California, United States of America.

Dr Cooper is serving as Director of Policy and Research at the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources, responsible to supervise three units within the Ministry; Investment Promotion Office, Mineral Policy Office and the Mineral Contracting and Licensing Office.

Commenting on the value he would add to the Board, Dr Cooper said, '*The President is determined to provide reliable, sustainable and affordable Energy to the people of Sierra Leone. This can only be done by developing an Energy Transition Plan, and we must also strengthen and rebuild our existing Energy facilities. To have a sustainable and uninterrupted power supply Electricity Generation, we must have the required Megawatts and the supply chains must be enough to reach every town, village and city within Sierra Leone. As a Board, we must provide policy guidelines to empower the Management with enough revenue to fund generation and supply projects*', he concluded.

18. Honourable Mrs Helen Kuyumbeh-Proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA]

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mrs Helen Kuyembeh is a Politician, Administrator, and Consultant of high pedigree. She started her career as an Administrative Assistant at the Ministry of Finance in 1985, and rose through the ranks of Senior Administrative Assistant in 1996. She then transitioned to the Gambia, and the United States of America where she held top high level positions at the United Nations and the Human Services Department in the United States of America.

She was a Member of Parliament for Constituency 078 from 2012-2018 in the Bo District, and served on several Parliamentary Committees, including the Public Accounts and also represented the Parliament of Sierra Leone on International Parliamentary fora.

The Nominee is a holder of Bachelor of International Development Studies from the Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, and Master's Degree in International Development Studies and a Master Degree from the University of Phoenix in Organization Development from the United States.

Prior to her appointment, Honourable Kuyembeh served as a Consultant for the European Union Governance Project, responsible to fund Good Governance Programmes and Projects. Her role included providing oversight and funding capacity building programmes for Members of Parliament and Staffers.

Responding to probing questions on her role on expediting the rehabilitation of minor and trunk roads around the Country, Honourable Helen Kuyembeh said, *'my role will include as stated by the Act of Parliament, to develop policy guidelines , strategies, and approve funding for the Management to construct major roads across the country. I have taken note of all major roads that need urgent rehabilitation and maintenance; if approved by this Honourable House, I will work with the Director General and other stakeholders to ensure these are quickly fixed'*, she concluded.

19. Madam Khaday Mamie Zorokong-Proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Housing Corporation

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Khaday Zorokong is a visionary leader with proven track record in Governance, Strategic Planning and Organizational Development. She is dedicated to promoting and empowering the rights of women and girls. Madam Zorokong is also passionate about advancing sustainable housing initiatives that enhance living standards and foster socio-economic growth.

Prior to her appointment, Madam Zorokong has been serving as the Chairman, Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation, and her main task included making strategic decision and providing policy guidelines for the Management of the Sierra Leone Road Transport Corporation and aligning them to the new direction agenda.

Answering to probing questions on revamping the value chain in the Housing Sector, Madam Zorokong said, *'the Housing sector is very important to develop the economy, therefore if approved by this Honourable House, I would work collaboratively with the required stakeholders and colleague Board Members to develop a National Housing Strategy to ameliorate the challenges in the sector'*, she concluded.

ADDENDUM

IV. Fifth Sitting of the Committee on Tuesday 17th December, 2024

20. Ambassador Sheikh Mohamed Sowa-Proposed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Washington DC, United States of America.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Ambassador Amara Sheikh Mohamed Sowa is the current Deputy Permanent Representative for Political Affairs in the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations; a position he has held since November 2022. In 2023, he was re-appointed Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, where he serves as the Alternate Permanent Representative on the Security Council. He holds a Master of Science in Development Studies from Njala University. Before this appointment, he served as National Programme Coordinator of the Government's flagship programme, the Free Quality School Education Programme from 2018 – 2022.

The nominee in response to the Committee said he will work collaboratively with colleagues at the United Nations to strengthen Sierra Leone's development positions globally.

21. PC Foday Musa- Proposed Board Member, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Paramount Chief Foday Musa is a well-known personality, an educationist and a former public sector worker with a plethora of experience as follows:

2015- 2024: Chairman, Board of Directors, National Commission for Social Action [NaCSA]

2016 to Date: National Vice Chairman, YMCA, Sierra Leone Teacher, Nongowa Progressive and Ansarul Islamic Secondary Schools, Kenema [1981-1983]. He is a fine politician and current Paramount Chief of the de-amalgamated **Ngaama Jahun Chiefdom**, Kailahun District.

Responding to the Committee, the nominee promised to work collaboratively with other colleagues to propagate peace and cohesion nationwide.

22. Mr Ibrahim Njai Amara-Proposed Member, Board of Directors ,Sierra Leone Maritime Administration [SLMA]

Mr Ibrahim Njai is a seasoned Management professional with more than thirty years' experience in Transport sector with specific focus on Fleet and People's Management,

Communication and Finance. He attained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Geography and Linguistics from Njala University [1996]. He is a calm and diligent worker that provides quality leadership at all times.

Mr Njai promised to work with colleagues members to guide the operations of the SLMA within the remits of the Maritime Act.

23. Mrs Olayinka Winifred Laggah, Proposed Member,Board of Directors, Bank of Sierra Leone

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mrs Olayinka Laggah holds a Masters' Degree in Human Service Management and Policy from the Charles Sturt University, Australia. From January 2002 to date, she has served as Operations Manager at the Judiciary of Sierra Leone. She also worked at the National Commission for Children as Commissioner from July 2014 to September 2019, and from February 2009 to 2014. She was Programme Support Coordinator at the Justice Sector Coordination Office. She is a diligent and result oriented executive.

Responding to the Committee, she promised to advise the Board [in relation to the Board's Act] on Monetary and Fiscal Policies that would empower the Bank to run a sound and resilient economy.

24. PC Sadiq Mahmoud Kapuwa ,proposed Chairman National Insurance Company [SLICO]

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Paramount Chief Sadiq Kapuwa is an Administrator with strong Management and Leadership background .The Nominee successfully served in senior management positions at the following Ministries:

Transport and Communication, Fisheries and Marine Resources,Trade and Industry, Defense, Health and Sanitation and the Office of the Vice President. The Nominee holds a Bachelor Degree in Arts from Fourah Bay College ,University of Sierra Leone, and a Master Degree in General Maritime Administration and Economics from the World Maritime University Malmoe ,Sweden . In addition to these, he is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Transport and Chartered Institute of Shipping.

Prior to his appointment, the Nominee served as Senior Assistant Secretary in the Vice President Office before being crowned as Paramount Chief of Nongowa Chiefdom.

Responding to probing questions on the desired competitive edge for the Insurance Commission, the Nominee said, *'the Sierra Leone Insurance Commission is the parent body of all Insurance Companies and if approved, I will ensure that all government vehicles are licensed through the Commission to boost revenue'.*

The Nominee was admonished by the Committee to use his experience as seasoned Civil Servant to provide policy guidelines for the management.

25. Rtd. AIG Morie Lengor Esq-Proposed Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Morie Lengor Esq. is a distinguished retired police officer with close to forty years of diligent and dedicated service to the Republic of Sierra Leone Police Force .The Nominee was recruited in the Police Force on 25th August, 1981 and went on to graduate as the best recruit and was posted to the Criminal Investigations Department where he rose through the ranks to serve as Acting Inspector General of Police before his retirement on the 31st May, 2018.

Mr Morie Lengor is a holder of a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Law Degrees all from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. In addition, he holds several certificates, including but not limited to Narcotics, Budget Preparation, and Strategic Leadership. He is also a recipient of the Order of the Rokel; a prestigious national Award [2012].

Prior to his appointment, this fine citizen served as Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency; the position he performed creditably.

Answering to inquiry questions from the Committee on his honest assessment of the current security situation and ways of making it better, Mr Lengor said, *'I would not want to comment on the current situation until I get to the office and have firsthand information. Based on professional assessment, I will take appropriate steps and strategies to improve on issues of bike riders, professional standards in the force, and other security anomalies. The Security situation is calm for now but would require some improvements'*

The Nominee promised to draw on his expertise as a distinguished former Police Officer to restore sanity, law and order within the metropolis and border areas of Sierra Leone.

26. Mr Emmanuel Koivaya Amara- Proposed Chairman, Political Parties Regulatory Commission

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Emmanuel Koivaya Amara is an enthusiastic, talented and experienced legal professional with passion for justice and commitment to protect rights of citizens. He is skilled in prosecuting criminal cases, providing sound legal advice, and delivering successful outcomes both at national and international levels. Mr Koivaya possesses over twelve years' experience in high-stake litigation, including criminal prosecutions and law suits at the Anti-Corruption Commission

He is a holder of a Bachelor Degree in Law from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone and was called to the Bar in 2012.

Prior to his appointment, Mr Amara served as the Coordinator of Operations, Sierra Leone Anti-Corruption Commission, responsible to develop, review, and negotiate contracts and other legal documents. He was also responsible to provide legal advice and counsel to Management Investigators, and Researchers within the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The Committee admonished the Nominee to discharge his duties without fear or favour in relation to the PPRC Act and consult colleagues before making decisions.

IV.RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Mr Philip Bob Jusu- Proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Brussels Belgium

Lieutenant General Rtd Peter Kakowou Lavahun- Proposed High Commissioner to the Republic of Kenya

Dr Mohamed Kanja Sesay- Proposed Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy, Paris, France

Retired Major General David Fred Alpha- Proposed Deputy High Commissioner, Sierra Leone High Commission, Abuja, Nigeria

Madam Mamadi Gobeh Kamara- Proposed Deputy Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Paris, France

Mr Kalilu Ibrahim Totangi- Proposed Deputy Permanent Representative (Political), United Nations

Mr John Abu- Proposed Resident Minister, Southern Region

Mr Raymond Katta-Proposed Chairman, Produce Monitoring Board

Mr. Moses Lloyd Jonathan Williams- Proposed Chairman, Statistics Sierra Leone Council

Mr Joseph Munda Bindi- Proposed Chairman, National Council for Civic Education and Democracy [NaCCED]

Mrs Lettitia Jah Mensurah- Proposed Member, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank

Mr Joseph Jonathan Ndanema- Proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Water Company [SALWACO]

Dr Wusu Sannoh- Proposed Chairman, National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency [NAMED]

Mr Alusine Kargbo- Proposed Commissioner, Northern Region, Local Government Service Commission

Ing. Kenelm Walter Hughes- Proposed Board Member, Electricity Generation and Transmission Company

Dr John David Cooper- Proposed Member, Electricity Generation and Transmission Company

Honourable Mrs Helen Kuyumbeh- Proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA]

Madam Khaday Mamie Zorokong- Proposed Chairman, Sierra Leone Housing Corporation

Ambassador Sheikh Mohamed Sowa- Proposed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Washington DC, United States of America

PC Foday Musa- Proposed Board Member, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion.

Mr. Ibrahim Njai Amara, Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration (SLMA)

Mrs Olayinka Winifred Laggah- Proposed Member, Board of Directors, Bank of Sierra Leone.

PC Sadiq Mahmoud Kapuwa- proposed Chairman National Insurance Company [SLICO]

Rtd. AIG Morie Lengor Esq- Proposed Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs

Mr Emmanuel Koivaya Amara- Proposed Chairman Political Parties Regulatory Commission

V. CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the **Fourth Report** reflects the **unanimous** view of the Committee. I therefore move that the **Fourth Report** of the Second Session of the

Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Honourable, Mathew Sahr Nyuma, JP

The Leader of Government Business

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, the Leader of Government Business. Leader of Government Business, did you mention Dr Wusu Sannoh and Mr Alusine Kargbo? Ok, thank you.

Honourable Members, before we proceed, let me recognize the presence eminent personality that we have with us this morning; Alhaji Kanja I. Sesay, you are heartily welcome in the House of Parliament. Umaru Napoleon Koroma, he is the Secretary General of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party, Ambassador Fatmata Sawaneh, Madam Isata J. Kabba; Adviser to the President. Justice Miatta Samba, is a Justice of the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone and a Justice of the International Criminal Court, you are welcome. Mr Umaru Fofannah, you heartily welcome to the House of Parliament; Mr Umaru Fofannah is an outstanding Reporter of Sierra Leone. I also recognize Alhaji Namadee, Madam Bairdu Dassama, former Minister of Social Welfare and now Adviser to the President. Let me particularly recognize the presence of Hon. Alusine Kanneh, he was an outstanding Member of Parliament and he was Deputy Chief Whip of the ruling bench. I recognize the presence of Mr Jimmy Batilo Songa. Lest I forget, I also recognize the presence of Hajah Fatu Kanja Sesay. I recognize the presence of Dr Eldred Taylor, Deputy Minister [1] of Energy, Madam Bannerette Katumu Amara, and Madam Haja Fatmata Fanta Dickson Rogers. I also recognize the presence of Mr Mohamed Rahman Swarray, Minister of Employment Labor and Social Security. I recognize the presence of Brigadier M.S Fofanah, Chief of Staff, Headquarter Joint Force Command, are you here? You are welcome. Brigadier General S.S Massaquoi, he is the Assistant Chief of Defense Staff, Support and Logistics, you are welcome. I also recognize the presence of Madam Nasu Fofanah, Alhaji Ismael Sesay, Mr Emmanuel Pious Richards and Mrs Frances Omo Lengor. I recognize Colonel Retired Muana Brima Massaquoi, the Deputy Minister of Defense, are you here? I also recognize the presence of Major General Amara Idara Bangura, Chief of Defense Staff, you are welcome. I recognize the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Aiah Edward Samadia; please stand for them to see you. I recognize AIG Sahr Yomba Senesie, Director of Training, and I recognize the presence Justice Mohamed Bangura, you are all welcome. Yes, we now proceed, any Seconder?

HON. BASIRU SILIKIE, I so second, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I know that all of you want to say something, giving the shared number of the nominees we have before us, cutting across Sierra Leone; from the North, West, East and South, and you are all in a way aligned, and you want to say something. But of course do not forget that we have a very long way to go today. So I am going to take a few from my right and a few from my left; strictly five minutes, so that we are done with this and we go to the other business of the day. Of course I told you yesterday that we are going to be here till night because we have to complete our job today. Tomorrow will be another day, so please you have to bear with me, proceed.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to start by thanking His Excellency the President for presenting to this House Nominees for important Offices of Governance. Mr Speaker Honuorable Members, I was part of the Appointment Committee and I can attest to this House that these Appointees were able to convince us for them to be recommended to this House. Mr Speaker Honourable Members, when Appointees come to this House, we heap praises on them, but at the end of the day, when they go to their various Offices and Members of Parliament visit them, some of them would not even open their Offices to Members of Parliament. Mr Speaker, whenever I see the Gallery full of our Constituents who accompany and celebrate with the Appointees of His Excellency the President, I am always of the view that Members of Parliament should use such opportunity to explain to our Constituents the roles of Members of Parliament and the roles of these Appointees.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I have always said in this Well that we the Members of Parliament and the Presidency are the ones whose faces are always on the Ballot Papers. The Constituents know us, they voted for us and they expect us to deliver. But Mr Speaker Honourable Members, little do our constituents know that the roles of Members of Parliament before and now are extremely different. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I can say without fear or favour that before 2004, the Members of Parliament were responsible for primary development; Members of Parliament were responsible for building Bridges, Roads, Community Centers and PHUs in their various Constituencies.

But Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, after the enactment of the 2004 Local Government Act, the power of development was removed from this Parliament and taken to the Executive and the Councils. Mr Speaker Honourable Members, the turnover of this Parliament from 2007 through 2023 had been for the wrong reasons. So when Appointees come here, it is

incumbent on us to admonish them to understand that we are approving them not just because they were nominated, we are approving them because they are going to perform for us. If they fail, they will not just be failing His Excellency the President; they will be failing this Parliament as well, because at the end of the day, the things we have been campaigning on as Members of Parliaments are based on the performance of the Appointees.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, when we go for election, the first things that are asked by both the Journalists and the general public are, **S.O 2**, '*watin you don do for you people dem?*' They do this because they are extremely convinced that we the Members of Parliament should be doing everything.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, to the Appointees, you have been given the utmost confidence by His Excellency the President to support him in achieving his Agenda. If you fail, you will be failing the SLPP because the next election is a transitional election; we would not rely on incumbency, we would be having a new candidate. So if you fail in your various Offices, you will not just be failing His Excellency the President, you will not just be killing his dreams for the development of this nation; you will be killing the SLPP because whatever the SLPP will be campaigning on will be centered around what these Appointees did while in their various Offices.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these Appointees have been chosen from the many Sierra Leoneans who supported His Excellency the President publicly or covertly. I can say clearly that His Excellency the President would not choose somebody that does not have the same vision with Him. I know for sure that you might have supported His Excellency either publicly or covertly, and that is the reason he has decided to bring you on board to support his Agenda.

Mr Speaker, the Constituents, let me inform them that the Nominees are the people that are responsible for developments, and these are the people that we encourage to take development to you. As Deputy Leader of Government Business, I want to make it abundantly clear to you that as Members of Parliament, government is not giving us a dime to take to you. **S.O 2**, '*govment nor dae gee we anitin for kerr development for we pipul dem*'.

Mr Speaker, the people are judging us on development, and therefore the turnover of this Parliament is extremely huge for the wrong reasons. So to the Appointees, we would be knocking at your doors; we would be visiting you in your Offices because the people know us, the people know our phone numbers, the people know our addresses but they do not know

you; they speak to you through us. We would be visiting you for our people, so please make sure you open your doors when we go to you on behalf of our people. Open your doors to the MPs, no MP will beg you for what to eat, nobody is going to beg you for his personal gains. Every MP that knocks on your doors will be knocking for his people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all the Appointees have bowed before us, which shows that this Parliament is the Supreme Arm of Government. When you were nominated by His Excellency the President, I could remember that all of you called on us for our support; your appointment does not guarantee your positions until us as Member of Parliament are convinced and give our approval to your positions. This shows that the Legislative Arm is the Supreme Arm of Government, and that is why it provides Oversight on the Executive and the Judiciary.

Mr Speaker, having said that, let me zero in on few of the nominees. I would begin with our son from Bo; Dr Mohamed Kanja Sesay. Mr Speaker, I am starting with Mohamend Kanja Sasay for obvious reasons. Mr Speaker, if we have twelve Members of Parliament in this House from 2012 to date is as a result of Alhaji Kanja Sesay. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe His Excellency the President has set a record that is hard to be broken in the longest period. His Excellency the President is a person that believes in young people. Even in this Parliament, we have the youngest Leadership; from the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, and to the Leaders of this House. I can conveniently say that the APC has started following suit.

To Dr Mohamed Kanja Sesay, please note that you have been chosen from the young people of Sierra Leone to represent Sierra Leone in France. I have always said that His Excellency is using us the young people as a test case; we are the guinea pigs of the young people. If we succeed, we would not only be succeeding for His Excellency, we would be succeeding for the future of this country. If on the other hand we fail as young people, we would be failing the country, and no President would be confident enough to empower young people as His Excellency has done. So Mr Sesay, you are going in not just to represent His Excellency, but the people of Sierra Leone. We hope and pray you will deliver for His Excellency and for us, because if you fail, you are not failing yourself, you are failing the young people of Sierra Leone. So we wish you well, and we are with you in our prayers. Of course be assured that you will enjoy the utmost support of your brothers from Bo, thank you very much.

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

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I recognize the presence of Dr Denis Moinina Sandy, Minister of Works. I also recognize the presence of Mr Chernor Bah, Minister of Information and Civic Education, where is he? Ok, I recognize the presences of Mr Timothy Kabba, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Ibrahim Tommy, an outstanding Civil Society Advocate and a Lawyer, you are welcome. I recognize the presence of the SLPP Chairman Kono, Mr Saffea Moiwa. I also recognize the presence of Madam Saptieu Saccoh, Deputy Minister of Justice. Yes, I also recognize the presence of Mrs Rebecca Monica Swarray, the wife of the Minister of Labour and of course my sister from Bonthe. I recognize the presence of Mr Hindowa Bindu, Deputy Minister of Social Welfare, and Mrs Catherine A. Sillah, you are welcome. I recognize Ambassador Sulay Darammy, Former Secretary to the President, are you here? Ok, he is gone, and Mr Paul Allen, Deputy Director General [NAMMED]. Yes proceed. Honourable Members, strictly five minutes.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, let me also recognize the newly appointed Resident Minister, South. Mr Speaker, on behalf of Bo, we want to thank His Excellency the President for bringing us a grassroots man. Mr Speaker, if we can be proud of PAOPA from 2012 to 2018, Mr John Abu is a household name for the popularization of the PAOPA in Bo. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the Southern Region, we have four Districts; Bo, Bonthe, Moyamba, Pujehun. And Mr Speaker, we have been blessed in Bo to be given a Resident Minister when His Excellency the President won the 2018 Elections, and that person was replaced with another Bo indigene, thank you very much His Excellency the President.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Abu knows the SLPP through and through; Mr Abu has been part of the sufferings of the people of and the Southern Region. He has served as a Regent Chief; Mr Abu please used those experiences to bring sanity, unity and development to the entire Southern Region.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will not conclude without mentioning the Honourable Helen Kuyembeh. Mr Speaker, yourself, I, the Honourable Paran Tarawally and the Honourable Helen Kuyembeh were all seated in this Parliament on the 4th of December in 2012. When we came, we were on that side, and I can say with all sincerity that the Honourable Helen Kuyembeh was one of our best MPs in that era. Mr Speaker, when the going got tough during 2012 to 2018, there were few MPs that the SLPP relied on; the Honourable Helen Kuyembeh, the Honourable Segepoh Solomon Thomas, the Honourable Param Umar Tarawally, the Honourable Bashiru Silikie, the Honourable Dixon M. Rogers and of course the Honourable Rado Yokie.

THE SPEAKER: And of course the Mama of the House, Honourable Veronica Kadie Sesay.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, we met the Mama here; I am speaking on the generation of 2012 and the Mama was here since 2005, long before we sojourn this House in 2012. We were young MPs when we came, that is why I did not mention her name and the Honourable Foday Rado Yokie.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Helen Kuyembeh was one of our best MPs even in Bo. Had she intended to come back to this House, no matter what may have happened along the way, there was no way she would not have been here; she was extremely popular in her Constituency.

Honourable Helen Kuyembeh, you have been called to serve. Mr Speaker, I am also extremely pleased because I would be providing Oversight on Honourable Helen Kuyembeh. The Honourable Helen Kuyembeh, you know we have an unfinished business in this House. We hope we would complete the unfinished business when you get to the SLRA.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, Honourable Bashiru Slikie. At this stage, I want recognize the presence of the current Anthony General and Minister of Justice, Mr Alpha Sesay, you are welcome. Proceed, Deputy Leader.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister of Internal Affairs was extremely professional during his interview. Mr Minister Designate, you can see that your Police Officers are here to support you. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, one thing I told the Minister Designate is that he would be inheriting a security sector that is extremely challenged. We all know what happens at our Checkpoints at night; most Police Officers do not even perform their duties as they are supposed to do at those Checkpoints. The Minister Designate would be faced with the proliferation of drugs in this country. Mr Speaker, there is a Ghetto in every area of our communities, and it is heartrending. Thankfully today, we have the Senior Management of the Police here with us. It is heartrending to see some of our Police Officers in some of these Ghettos. This is what the proposed Minister would be faced with, Mr Speaker. Mr Minister Designate, you would be faced with a Central Business District that is full of Okadas. Mr Speaker, we have frowned at that long before now, and we are still frowning at it. Mr Minister, you would be faced with a Fire Force that does not have Fire Engines all over the country.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader, do not forget that the Police have covert operations, so sometime when you see them in some of these palaces is not that they go there to indulge, but sometimes is part of their covert operations, do not forget *[Laughter]*.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, the worst is that sometimes you see them in Police Uniform. So Mr Proposed Minister of Internal Affairs, these are some of the challenges you may be faced with. I know you are professional, you have gone through the ranks of AIG, DIG, please use your professionalism to restore some sanity in Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, to Mr Joseph Ndanema, one thing I can say to these Nominees is that these positions given to them are transitional positions; today you are there, before you, somebody was there, and after you, somebody will be there. So Mr Speaker, when I see Joseph Ndanema today as Board Chairman, I could remember few years ago when he was a Minister. So when you are given positions of this nature, treat them as transitional positions. Do not treat those positions as if they are permanent positions meant for you forever. The way you treated Board Members and Chairmen under your Department or Ministry will be the same way your Minister will treat you when you become a Board Chairman or Member. If you had treated them well, I assure you that you too will be treated nicely as a Board Chairman. This particular caution is going for all Ministers or Appointees, and thankfully you are here.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some Ministers always create an impression that these are their permanent offices, even when you talk to them, some are extremely harsh with Members of Parliament and the public. Some even do not talk to people, forgetting that these are transitional offices; you would be there today but could be sacked at any moment. We as Members of Parliament we are always ready to operate with the next Minister; we are here to interview and approve, and that is why we said we are a Supreme Arm of Government. So please treat people the way you want others to treat you. Ministers present in this House, do not believe or think that these offices you are occupying are your permanent offices; these are transitional offices. Mr Speaker, there are some Ministers who do not even speak to their Board Members, and some do not treat their Deputy Ministers with respect. We have Ministers who think they are the owners of these Ministries; they forget that these are transitional offices that they will leave tomorrow and nobody will consider them. Before occupying these offices, people did not consider most of you; you only came to the limelight after you occupied these offices. So when you hold these offices, know that these offices are transitional offices because somebody was there yesterday before you, and somebody will be there again tomorrow after you may have left.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I cannot name all of the Appointees, but I want them to treat these offices as offices they would be occupying for just a period. Mr Speaker, you have Ministers who do not even pick calls, we have government officers who have changed friends; people call them they would not pick, people visit them, they would not open their doors for them, they are walking around with Police Officers, and when they lose their offices, you would not see these Police Officers again with them. So please treat these offices as if you are passersby, and not as your personal and permanent properties, thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Deputy Leader of Government Business.

Honourable Qutin Salia Konneh, you have five minutes. After Honourable Quintin Salia Konneh, Honourable AKK, and after Honorable AKK, Honourable Vandy would take the Floor. Proceed.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would do my level best to present my debate in the shortest possible time. I know it would be unjust for me to choose individuals because, looking at the nominees, I know every one of them personally, so, I would try as much as possible to be generic in my presentation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is just an advice to our Nominees; I want the Nominees to know that the president we have talks very little but acts more. The positions you are about to occupy now were once occupied by people like you, or maybe people that were academically more qualified than some of you. Today, these people are not in those offices simply because the president is looking out for Performers, and not people who go there to occupy those seats as ornaments or decorations. The president talks very little, and that is why whenever he removes his nominees or appointees, he gives no reason to anybody because he gave no reason to anyone for appointing you. If I may toe the line with the Honourable Member who just spoke, I would say, some of these offices have been established for you to interact with the people you vowed to serve. But if you isolate yourself, making yourself a demigod, than realize that you would leave those offices in a shortest possible time. For us as MPs, we would be here until the five years elapse, and for you, if the president dreams and realizes that you are seated on his seat, the next morning you would be asked out. Note that the populace you are seen out there are the ones who give feedback to the President because the President listens to the general public. If they generally talk about you negatively, the next day you are out. But again, I am very much happy for the

appointment of certain individuals, and I believe the president was deliberate in choosing these people.

The Speaker Honourable Members, one of these people is Dr Mohamed Kanja Sesay. Irrespective of the fact that he is my biological brother, Dr Mohamed Kanja Sesay started serving at a very young age. Dr Sesay served a very big institution; the Climax Club as a peak man, and I believe serving that institution is like serving this nation. But again, we are all not surprised because a Crocodile will always give birth to a Crocodile, and a Lion will always give birth to a Lion. If the father has been a performer and he is still a performer, you cannot expect that father to give birth to somebody who cannot perform. So Dr Sesay, you are welcome, and we want to see the weak ties between Sierra Leone and Paris to be strengthened.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me quickly go to my student. We were in school together and I was his tutor. You know, I represented Sierra Leone in sport, and he admired me so much that he had to come to me and asked that I should train him. The person I am talking about is no less a person than Mr Koivaya Amara.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we all know the performers of Mr Amara at the Anti-Corruption Commission, and the President is always deliberate and looks at performances before appointing people; he does not need to know you personally or you necessarily be an SLPP. Before he appoints someone, he focuses on the country and the people who can perform well. You have been appointed because you are a performer.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my next person to talk about is an indigene from Kailahun, Morie Lengor. In fact, I would not waste words because the mere mention of his name, you would know that Mr Morie Lengor is a performer by all standards. Even though he decided to retire and sit quietly, the President said no, we still need your expertise to make sure you strengthen the police institution. We all know that without the police there will be no peace, and that is the reason you have been called to provide your expertise in that area, and I have no doubt that you will perform because you are from Kailahun, thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want Members on both sides of the aisle to appreciate these two personalities; Mr Kokowou Lavahun and Major General Fred David Alpha. Had it not been the timely intervention of these two people, we would have stopped being called Honourable Members, and by now we would have been loafers moving along the streets with no jobs; we would have been unemployed. So we thank you very much for making it possible

for us to still have jobs that enable us to feed our families, thank you and may the God almighty continue to bless you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me quickly narrow down on our astute and most handsome Paramount Chief from Kailahun, a man so peaceful in nature. I can recall that few weeks ago, we had unrest in my Chiefdom, Jawei and PC Gbog-boto intervened swiftly. I believe it was as a result of his intervention that the President has decided to call on him to go and head that Institution. PC Gbo-gboto, we appreciate you, we know you are a performer, we have no doubt in you and we would continue to celebrate you as we go along.

Lastly Mr Speaker, I know that I would be supervising somebody who is a Sowi; Madam Kaday Zorokong. Kaday Zorokong will be heading the Housing Corporation, and the Housing Corporation is an institution that requires so much attention because there are lots of opportunities but yet that institution is poorly looked after; no Budget, no nothing, and the people have been left alone. I however thank the Manager for being so proactive in ensuring that the Cooperation moves on.

Madam Kaday, you are going to an Institution that is full of opportunities but very difficult to run. I expect you to work amicably with the Management of that Corporation.

And Mr Kotor Amara Sowa, I appreciate you and everybody that I have not mentioned. To add my last voice to what the Deputy Leader said, please open up those Offices. I personally appreciate Dr Moinina Denis Sandi; he has an open door system in a way that anytime a Member of Parliament visits his Office that Member of Parliament is prioritized and given the maximum attention. That is what we expect from all nominees or appointees.

On that note, I rest my case, and I thank everybody. For those of you I have not mentioned, please forgive me, it was as a result of the limited time allocated to me. Raymond Bob, you are a small boy and I appreciate you; go and do your work. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable AKK, you have the Floor.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today is a special day. The Well is full, and you will ask yourself why are all these people here, What is their expectation and what is the expectation of His Excellency the President who appointed them? As Nominees, you have been thrown into the Lion's Den of expectations; His Excellency expects you to perform with no excuse. Finances are very difficult to come by in some of this

places or offices that you are going. You are going to face some staff members that are not willing to produce result, you are going to head people who are not worried to produce what the nation wants; all they want is what benefits them directly. Your people are here, they will be singing and dancing for you; they expect you to bring the much required results. But let me tell you one thing, when you fail, you do not fail the President because he has the opportunity to appoint somebody else; you will be failing yourself and your family. Some people here will go down in history to say that 'I was there with him, **S.O 2, but da man na big disgrace nar we family.**' So whatever you do on a daily bases, know that you are from a family, know that you are from a village, know that you are from a Chiefdom, and above all, know that you have been appointed because His Excellency bestowed his confidence in you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not praise nominees in this well, but I want to say to Dr Kanja Sesay that he is entering into a very difficult career. Dr Kanja Sesay, your father was a nice man when he was a Minister; he treated everybody with respect, irrespective of political colour. He is a Lion, but he can also be a dove; he encouraged every colour to speak to him. Dr Sesay, the world is watching you. When we approve Ambassadors I always say they are the image makers of this country. But many people have been Ambassadors with no result brought to Sierra Leone. We are approving Ambassadors to key nations. If you go to the European Union [EU], you would see that most of the projects in Sierra Leone are funded by the EU. In our Governance Institutions you would see EU, which means we need a strong person to go to the EU for us to be treated as a nation with respect. I do not care who is going there; I only want you to know that the responsibility you are going to carry is to represent our nation. And therefore even our conduct must speak as Sierra Leone. You look at France, it is a big nation in the world, Abuja is a big political nation in West Africa, and Kenya is almost the hub of East Africa. So been appointed today as Ambassadors tells you how important your positions are to this nation. But I bet you that after all your services you would not even write a Memoir on the achievements you brought back to Sierra Leone. I am yet to read even a Paragraph of Former Ambassadors telling us what they achieved for this nation. Mr Speaker, guess what? Unlike us who are being paid in Leones, these Ambassadors are being paid in Dollars.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me narrow down to the man who has brought the largest crowd in this Well; the man from Kailahun, Mr Lengor. Mr Lengor, there are many Offices under your Office, and there are many appointees of His Excellency in your Office. An example of such Office is the Immigration Department. I am bringing in the Immigration Department as an example not because the person heading it is a former Member of

Parliament, but because the transformation of the Immigration Department is very unique. There is a huge transformation, and I remember talking to the Chief Immigration Officer [CIO] one day, and he said to me that Honourable AKK, '*I have a problem*', and I know what he whispered in my ears on that day.

So Mr Lengor, I would only call on you to please not disappoint this young man; please work with him, **S.O 2**, '*nar bluff man but e lek result*', and he will depend on you to give him the required result. Look at the dying state of Fire Force. As we speak today, there are buildings all over for Fire Force but there are no Engines. Also, the Suppliers of Prisons are almost downing tools. These are the Institutions that are going to work under you, and these are the issues that are going to confront you. Forget about the melody, forget about the shouting; you have a big task ahead of you. And guess what? You succeeded in the Police Force, and if by the time you down tools as a Minister of Internal Affairs you perform well, we will remember you as one of the Ministers of Internal Affairs that transformed those Institutions, may God go with you.

Mr Speaker, I know even if I have spent my five minutes you would add more time for me because I am obligated to talk on the PPRC. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there was a time in this country when our party could not have survived hard it not been for the existence of the PPRC. In those trying times of our party, we had a person called Mr Bangura who could at that time read between the lines, and could not see colours; all he did for us was to sustain our Party. I know many people who could have killed the APC if they were in that position at that time. But Mr Bangura resurrected the APC because he did not look at colours. He said and did the right things. That is why I was worried when he was standing there I was worried; we need to acknowledge people that have worked for this country. He would have just said no, **S.O 2**, '*if den waya die, opposition nor go dae again, en we go get easy election*'. But Mr Bangura stood firm, and I know that History will right good about him. If the Historian of this nation could write northing about him, I know that the APC will not forget his role in sustaining our Party.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, that is the Office my Liberator is going to occupy, that is the Office a young man who has earned himself respect within the General's Fraternity is going to. As a young student then, I looked up to you, and I believed in you in the Fraternity. Your name is a respectable one in the Liberals Brotherhood. Now you are going to a very difficult institution in which you will be manning the affairs of Political Parties. As we speak, there are Political Parties who still have matters at the PPRC, and some are in Court. That is

the role you are going to play; to uphold our Democracy. It is difficult to uphold Democracy because Democracy talks about accommodating different views and opinions; you do not need to like me before you listen to me. That is what democracy says, and that is the Office you are going to occupy. You are going to meet with people who condemn government daily but you need to uphold their institutions. It is not a difficult task; you only need to accommodate other people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, majority of the Members of Parliament here are coming from rural areas, and that is why we should pay keen attention to SALWACO. The gains SALWACO has done over the years are very huge, but one of the major challenges we have with SALWACO is the frequent change of leadership, and that delays the performance of most of their projects. We hope that this transformation that is happening now in SALWACO will reflect the lives of our people. As we speak, **70%** of Sierra Leoneans cannot drink pure water, and the case of those that drink packet water in Freetown is even worst. That is the challenge we have even in the provinces. I was in Bo in 2019 with the Water Committee, and we went to a Factory where we discovered that nine other Factories were producing water from the same Well. When we enquired from them they told us it was difficult for them to buy water from SALWACO because, **S.O 2, ‘ den wata dear’.**

So, apart from providing water for economic reasons, SALWACO must understand that people producing water for sachets purposes in the provincial areas should be given different tariff. This is because, when you fail to levy reasonable tariff on them they will resort to producing sachet water from the Wells for our people. Mr Speaker, these are the issues, and if we do not address them, we will ever continue to face the same challenges.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy today because I have not heard praise singing from the other side; we are coming to the realization of the realities around us. We have qualified Sierra Leoneans all over the world, but the questions you ask yourself daily are: With all the appointments we have made in the past, are people satisfied? As Political Class, have we addressed the issues that affect the ordinary people on a daily bases? Yet still when we are appointed, they come, they glamour and dance. They do not dance because they like music; they dance because they expect form us, they dance out of hope, but this is what they get at the end of the day, Mr Speaker; no result.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable AKK, you know you are a Leader, but do not overuse your privileges.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: I am rounding off now, Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, please.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, irrespective of where we come from, irrespective of what we do, irrespective of party, our motive as politicians is to make the lives of our people better. You have the right as a Member of Parliament to tell the people that you are not elected to solve their problems, that they should not expect you to build their hospitals; but if your life is transforming and their lives are depreciating, they will still look up to you for help. Therefore you have a role as a Member of Parliament to build and monitor the institutions to provide for them. Stop complaining as a Member of Parliament and speak the truth for the people. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I know who that is meant for, but I will not say it. After Honourable Vandy, I know the Honourable Leader is certainly going to get back at you [laughter]. After Honourable Vandy, I would listen to the voice of a lady, then the Leader of the Opposition [2], and the Chief Whip and we conclude. I was going to round up, but for the Leaders that got up. Honourable Vandy, you have five minutes.

HON. CHRISTOPHER KEKURA VANDY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I feel so good and happy today because when good things happen you have to praise God for that. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a lot of nominees before us here today, and I want to put them by segments; we have those that are going on Diplomatic Missions, and we have those that would be working with us here. But since the number is large, I would just put them in two contexts. But that notwithstanding, I would like to mention some of them individually. Mr Speaker, I have said in this Well times without number that when we were in schools and colleges, they taught us the role of Government in an economy; one of the roles of Government in an economy is Diplomatic Representation, and any Government that jokes with that is not a sober minded government.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, Honourable Vandy. At this stage, I recognize the presence of Madam Hawa Foray, the National Women's Leader of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party [SLPP]. I also recognize the presence of Paramount Chief Amie Kallon [II], and Madam Queen Fofanah the deputy minister of works and public asset, Madam Queen Fofanah. I then recognize the presence of Engineer Peter Komeh, one of the Directors of SLRA; you are all heartily welcome to the House of Parliament. Proceed, Honourable Member.

HON. CHRISTOPHER KEKURA VANDY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. As I was saying, one of the roles of a Government in an Economy is Diplomatic Representation, and that needs to be treated seriously. Because President Bio treats that particular aspect with seriousness, that is why we are now internationally recognized.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a lot of Nominees before us today, and I will zoom in on some of them.

Firstly, I would begin with Joseph Munda Bindi, commonly called '*Join Me for Betteh*'. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when Munda Bindi was a Chairman of the Bo District Council I was a very poor teacher, but being a business minded person, I had a Construction Firm called KEBRA Construction and General Services. That is the man that used to give me job. I was one of the best Contractors in the Bo District Council under the Leadership of Mr Joseph Munda Bindi. He is a brother, and his election as Chairman of the District Council, I was the Finance Controller of his Campaign Team. That is why when you go to former FIB, now VISTA Bank, most of the Staff members refer to me as '*Join me for Better*' because that was the Account we established for his campaign. Joseph Munda Bindi, I wish you well to the Office you are going.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the next person I want talk about is Mr John Abu. Mr Speaker, I am so pleased about the appointment of John Abu. When we were fighting for Retired Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, John Abu was the Coordinator and Chairman of the group we had in Bo called '*Empathizers of Maada Bio*' [EMB]. That was the time we had a lot of people fawning at us, saying, **S.O 2**, '*den bor-bor yah nor sober.*' But since we won the elections in 2018 it is now he has only been given a Public Office. He did not fight or grumble, even though he may have thought that because he worked for this regime, he was going to be rewarded. Today you have been rewarded, and you are going to serve as Resident Minister, South. Mr Bindi, your responsibility as a Resident Minister is to make sure you emulate your predecessor by ensuring that the four Districts under your purview are united. Otherwise, we would not hesitate to take on you. If I did not hesitate to summon my own political mentor; my father to command give us update on his activities, I will also not hesitate to call on to you come and tell us what you are doing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, next on my list is a very serious personality, Mr Raymond Katta. Katta, you are my nephew, and you are going to a very important Office. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am bringing up that Office for obvious reasons. The Finance Act, 2021, Section 52 made a provision that at least **30%** proceeds from Agricultural, Fisheries

and Mines and Minerals should be repatriated. Mr Speaker, when we come to the Budget thoroughly I would highlight certain secret to you, and we would insist that those laws are strictly followed.

THE SPEAKER: Do not worry; the Public Interest Committee is going to look at all those.

HON. CHRISTOPHER KEKURA VANDY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the monies repatriated in January to September, 2024 by the Agricultural Sector alone was **\$104Mln**, which speaks volume as to how that helps boost our economy. Mr Speaker, such practice actually helps in stopping the Exchange Rate from fluctuating. When the Bank of Sierra Leone has Foreign Reserve, since the people that repatriate this money operate in Local Currencies, they will be given the equivalent in Local Currency and the Foreign Currency will remain with the Bank of Sierra Leone. Agriculture alone accounted for **44.67%** of the money I made mention of. Mr Katta, that tells you that you are going to an Office that is very important. You definitely have to increase on this number, Mr Katta. You are a disciplinarian like your dad, and that is why we are pleased about your nomination. So when you go to that Office, make sure that the required percentages are repatriated for the good of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my next take is on Electricity Generation and Transmission Company [EGTC]. The Energy sector is a very complex system not just for Sierra Leone but the world at large. When you look at the Energy liabilities in Ghana as I speak to you, it amounts to **\$18Bln**. Mr Speaker, when we had our problem with the Kar-Powership, people were crying all over the place, failing to know that we have bigger Economies that have very huge Energy liabilities. As you go to EGTC as Board Member, please make sure you do the rightful things for the Energy sector to grow.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me quickly zoom in on Mr Sowa who is going as an Ambassador to America. I am very pleased with the appointment of Mr Sowa. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we were in the Fifth Parliament, Mr Sowa was one of my sources of information for all the vibrant debate, especially relating to education. In the Fifth Parliament there was a time I stood in this Well and highlighted accurate number of Teachers recruited in all the constituencies. I am pleased to inform this Honourable House that my source for that information was Mr Sowa. Mr Sowa, now you are a Diplomat, you are no long **S.O2**, '*muku politician*' that will be seen every day, so make sure you fly the Flag of Sierra Leone high.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, because the list is so long, let me now go to my younger brother because there is no way I will address this House without...

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Vandy, you only have one minute.

HON. CHRISTOPHER KEKURA VANDY: Okay, Mr Speaker, and I am going to spend that time on my younger brother. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my colleague on the other side, Honourable AKK from Kambia in his debate encouraged Dr Mohamed Kanja Sesay to be mindful of the fact that France is one of the big powers, and that anybody going out there to represent Sierra Leone has to be sober minded. I want to assure this House that Mohamed Kanja Sesay is a sober minded Sierra Leonean, and a very young gentleman. He did his Masters and PHD in Gordon University; one of the acclaimed Universities in the world. So he knows the **Dos** and **Don'ts** of France. I therefore want to assure you all that he is going to perform excellently in France.

Dr Sesay, please the French language is no longer in existence in this country, and that is why most of our Graduates only speak English. And when they compete with Guineans or Senegalese for International jobs, they are dropped because the Senegalese and Guineans are mostly bilingual; our youths only depend on the Queen's Language. We therefore want you to go and do everything humanly possible to ensure that we go back to studying French.

Mr Speaker, allow me not to sit down without mentioning one of my mentors; Madam Khaday Mamie Zorokong. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we used to call her, **S.O 2**, '*Sowi Accede N'gundi*'. Sowi Accede, you are going to an Institution that is challenged, but we crave on your indulgence to be patient and work as a team. Of course you are a team player, go there and make us proud.

And to the Retired Military Officers, today if we are in jobs it is because you sacrificed your lives for us to survive today. If those, **S.O2**, '*Kufarrs*' had succeeded, we would be jobless today, and none of us would be in our Offices. So we want to thank you, and we hope and pray that you excel in your different Offices that you are going. We have no doubt in you; if you could perform to expectation in your previous jobs, we know you would do better where you are going.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know you want me to wrap off now, but I also have a father here to talk about; Dr Wusu Sannoh who is our Local Government Guru. We all know he was one of the best performing Mayors of Bo City. Dr Sannoh, I know you are going to perform well in the office you appointed to serve.

Mr Speaker, let me quickly end on this very interesting note. Mr Speaker, I went to Koyeima Government Secondary School, and there is somebody here who went to the same school before me. This is the man who used to entertain my people; when you go to Koyeima you eat goat which you do not pay for. He was one of the guys who ate the goats of my people, and today he is going as a Chairman of NaCSA. He is our SLPP Chairman of Bo District, and he is no lesser person but Mohamed EK Alie. **S.O2**, '*E get for pay me ooo, e get for pay me something*'

So on that note Mr Speaker, I want to thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to have a bite on this very important debate today, and I crave the indulgence of this Honourable House to speedily approve these individuals, thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Member. Honopurable Members, it is a blessing that nobody is jobless here, not so? Yes, Honourable Leader.

HON. NENEH LEBBIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me first of all take this opportunity to thank His Excellency on behalf of the Bo District Members of Parliament because, as the Female Caucus Leader, although the Deputy Leader of Government Business is my immediate boss and he has spoken already, I still need to add my voice to this debate. So with respect to you Deputy Leader of Government Business, allow me to add my voice to this very important debate.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am very happy and proud, and I must say to His Excellency the President that Bo District is proud of him, and we have always respected and supported him. Today, His Excellency has reciprocated in one way or the other for Bo District to know that he knows what we have done for him; thank you, Mr President. Mr Speaker, the Nominees are so much but quickly allow me to congratulate all of them in advance because I know by God's grace they are going to be approved by this House. I may definitely leave out some names because of the number and time allocated to me.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, permit me to start with one of my bosses I started my political career with at the Council; Dr Wusu Sannoh. Mr Speaker, this is a man I am proud of because we started from zero. We started working together under the 2004 Act in Bo City Council; I was a Councillor and he was the Chairman.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, because of his pro-activeness, Dr Wusu Sannoh transformed the Bo Town Council to Bo City Council. Dr Sannoh, you have done so much for us and we cannot let you go without letting people know what you have done. My Honourable

Leader said under your regime the Bo City was described as the cleanest city because of the good work of the Council. When I was part of that team, you led us with so much passion to an extent that people thought of you as a real indigene of Bo. When we told people that you were not from Bo but from Moyamba District, they always found it hard to believe. You produced a result for Bo District like a true son of the soil. So on behalf of Bo District, I want to say thank you very much. I know you are going to another office, and I have no doubt that you are going to perform more than what you ever done.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me quickly talk about Dr Kanja Sesay. Mr Speaker, we have is a very good equation today; minus one plus one [-1+1]. For those of you who know mathematics, the equation we have today is that **minus** Kanja Sesay **plus** Kanja Sesay is **equal** to Kanja Sesay. Thank you, Mr President for removing one Kanja Sesay and bringing in another Kanja Sesay.

Dr Sesay, you are welcome into politics; perhaps you have been performing before now but not in the political realm. Now you are in politics, some of our colleagues would be going to some of these places where you are going to serve when approved. And therefore, as an Ambassador, you are going to serve in the capacity of the President. I know you are young, but with all what we have read and heard about you from people who know you, particularly your elder brother, I believe that you are definitely going to perform to the expectations of all of us. Dr Sesay, this House is the Parliament of Sierra Leone, and therefore, you are going to serve Sierra Leone and not a single political, party. Let us try to serve Sierra Leone because Sierra Leone is just one country one people. No matter what other slogans may say, the '*One Country One People*' Slogan is the one that will see us through as Sierra Leoneans. So as you go to that Office, make sure you do due diligence to that Office.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am not coming from Kailahun but I am related to the Kailahun people by marriage, and therefore, I have this privilege to congratulate Mr Morie Lengor on behalf of my family. Mr Morie Lengor is a household name and I know as ever before that he is just the right peg in the right hole. Mr Lengor, you have been an Administrator, now you are going as a political head of an Institution; the Internal Affairs Ministry. I want you to blend both the Administrative and Political sides of life. That does not in any way mean you should not take cognizance of the fact that Sierra Leone has different Political Parties, and that you are going to serve all of us as Sierra Leoneans. You have been a very good man; everybody has spoken well about you and some will continue talking good about you. Just continue to be an incredible personality. Thank you very much, Mr President

for giving us such a good Sierra Leonean to serve in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Mr Lengor, this is Sierra Leone, and you already know the challenges in that Office; we have **Police men** among **police men**, let us make sure we give them good training services; let us encourage them to be professionals. Through your Office, I have no doubt that the security forces under your purview will become what is expected of them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me now to talk about my Chief; the peoples representative, the man of the people, the grassroots man, the man who has worked so hard for Bo District, the bulldozer, and that is no less a person but Mr John Abu. Let me congratulate Mr John Abu in advance. Mr Abu, I have no doubt that you are going to perform your duty very well and diligently. Mr Abu, you know we have worked together in this game of Politics. Today you have been awarded for your good work; continue to encourage the grassroots as you used to do. Like others have already said, please do not change your mindset. We are saying this because, at times as soon as some people assume offices they become Kings and they start behaving otherwise. I really do not have doubt in you. Just the day your name was announced, you saw what happened at the Party Office. Even though I was here in Freetown, I saw it all through Social media which tells us a lot of things around the world. John Abu, Bo is normally referred to as '*Sweet Bo*' but you know what happens in Bo. If you uphold what you have been doing in Bo, you will definitely be hailed. If on the other hand you decide to move away even slightly from the kind of perception people have for you, and you become something else, then Bo will also change to something else for you. But I want to assure you that we are going to be with you as Bo District MPs; we will support you, and you too will support us. Whenever you have activities, all of us may not be there together, but make sure that you give us the opportunity to be with you and support you at all times. Your predecessor, Mr Kandekpa did so well, and so I am sure you would work with him closely and see what you can do better. In politics, you do your own part; make sure you always excel.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank Mr President for nominating another woman, our sister, Honourable Helen Kuyembeh. Madam Kuyembeh has worked with us in our Female Caucus and we know the kind of support she gave to us in that particular Office. Honourable Kuyembeh, you are loved by the women of this Parliament because of your hard work. With your vast work experience in different places, I can assure this House that you would perform to expectations in this new assignment.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have a president that maintains his slogan '**talk and do.**' That is why if you are given an appointment by His Excellency, you have to ensure that you are able to do what you promised. In other words, Mr President is looking forward to results and not excuses. We know there are challenges in every office, but we must work hard to surmount some of those challenges and attain the required results.

On that note, I want to thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to the debate. And to all the Nominees, congratulations in advance, and may God bless you in your new Offices as you take up your duties.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Neneh Lebbie. Honorable Daniel Koroma, after Honourable Daniel Koroma the Chief Whip, and then then the Paramount Chief, then we round up, thank you.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I start my intervention, I just want to thank you first of all for recognizing my inseparable brother, Umaru Napoleom Koroma. I want it to be known in this entire House that he is my brother indeed and we are inseparable. I also want to thank you for recognizing my best Minister, Mohamed Rahman Swarray; the brain behind the abolition of the Death Penalty, the brain behind the enactment of the IMC Act, the brain behind the enactment of the Cyber-Crime Law, and also the brain behind completely expunging Part Four of the Public Order Act. That is why I consider him as my Minister of the year. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want this House to know that I am a Member of the Appointment Committee and I participated in all the sittings of the said Committee. We had three sittings but the result of those sittings are being put together now in one plenary hearings for the approval of the Nominees. Based on what I have discovered, if I ask you how you feel? For sure your response would be, '*I feel very ba*'; you will not feel good for what has happened now. I would also tell you how I feel about this.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have 26 Nominees before us for approval, and regrettable, out of that 26 only 4 are females, which is in total contravention of our very Law we make in this House. It is like Parliament going ahead to deny the very Law we enacted.

Mr Speaker how did you feel? You may reserve your opinion, but I have the right, and I have the platform now to tell the public how I feel. As a '*he for she*', I feel very bad because the female Nominees are not even up to **15%**.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Point of Order, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is a public secret that the entire government architecture has **30%** and above women representatives. So the Honourable cannot use Nominees here to determine **30%**; that is a very wrong, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Where is the Leader of Government Business?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: He is coming; he would join us soon.

THE SPEAKER: Take note for him.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Okay, thank you. *[Undertone]* No, but the problem is that we are live on air, and we should understand that we have **30%** women representation.

THE SPEAKER: That is why he is going to round up

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Yes, we have **30%** women representations.

THE SPEAKER: I know, you are right, but in the absence of the Leader of Government Business, take note for him to respond, thank you. Yes, proceed.

HON. DANIEL KOROMA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, since the start of deliberations today, the House has been very orderly.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, I agree.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Not that we did not have Point of Order to raise.

THE SPEAKER: I agreed.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: But we want this House to be orderly, and I will like it to continue that way. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, of course we have to go ahead, I cannot go against the approval of these Nominees. I only have the right to tell you how I feel, which I have done. But maybe the only thing that can appease me is the answer to this question, and I believe if it is **no**, then I will say it is better; if it is **yes**, then I will say it is good. The question is for the Right Honourable Hellen Kuyembeh as a female nominee. My instinct tells me that she is the first woman to be appointed Chair of the SLRA Board. If the answer to my instinct is **yes**, then I can use that to appease myself in terms of **he** for **she** drive. If that is the case, even though female representation in this particular nomination and approval processes is below **15%**, at least a record has been set that a woman has been appointed as Chair of SLRA Board for the first time since the days of Adam and Eve. I think

that is a kudos to His Excellency President Bio; thank you very much, President Bio for appointing a female for the first time to head SLRA Board.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have few issues to speak on SLRA. For me, I do not speak to individuals; I speak on the issues. Madam SLRA, I congratulate you in advance if approved, but please take note of the following question:

In terms of Regional divide in this nation, who actually bewitched Sierra Leone to remain a regionally divided country as we are currently?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I must take this time to commend Professor Alpha T. Wurie, Chief Adviser to the President. One of the ideas he is working towards now is to ensure that certain Ministries move their Headquarters away from Freetown. For instance, the Ministry of Agriculture has to move its Headquarters in the Western Area; it can be well sited in the provinces. Professor Wurie at one time engaged me as an individual and I showed him my mathematics as to how naturally we can bridge this Regional divide which the Geography of Sierra Leone directly dictates for us.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let us for example take from the Masiaka to Bo Road under the current SLPP. I said SLPP because we are under SLPP for now, so we start from there. When you take from Masiaka to Bo to Kenema under SLPP regime, you would realize that the development agenda is based on only the right hand side. If you look at the same example under APC, *[Interrupted]...*

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, we want this House to be orderly

THE SPEAKER: Chief Whip, you are going to address this Parliament after him. Please proceed.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: We are providing vision; in fact Professor Alpha T. Wurie would appreciate me so much because we were providing vision for either this government or the succeeding one. Some Governments will come one day and say this thing makes sense, and we have to do it. SLRA please take note of this; maybe at your time or at a later date. As I was saying before I got interrupted, if you look at the same example under the APC, from Masiaka to Makeni, development will be centered only to the left. Do you know what will go wrong at the end? Nobody will pay attention to the center; no city, no big towns, no development, no attention, no road and nothing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we need connectivity in terms of good Road Networks. If I have my way, between **Masiaka** and **Mile 91** on this side, and **Masiaka** and **Lunsar** on that side, there should be connectivity at the middle. And if you go to **Mile 91**, there is an existing road already, but it has been neglected; 91 to Magburaka or Matotoka, there is a connectivity road but has been neglected. If I have my way, that road will get my first class attention. If I also have my way, between 91 and Taiama and between Makeni and Masingbe there should be connectivity. Of course there is a second connectivity road that moves from Matotoka to Yele to Bo but that one has been also neglected. If these connectivity roads are constructed perfectly, this Regional divide will fade out with time.

Mr Speaker, you know I read Sociology which talks about the concept of change. According to Sociology, change is unnoticeable and unstoppable; but you need to provide a suitable environment for change to take place. But as a result of the neglect of that buffer zone between the South-East and the North-West, we will remain Southeast and Northwest forever and ever. That should not be the case; we need to connect ourselves.

Mr Speaker, you sent me to the Special Select Committee to do Oversight on Orange, regarding to the poor network. We went all the way to Kono and our next mission was to go to Moyamba but you know what happened? We had to drive all the way from Kono, back to Masiaka, and to Moyamba Junction, and then to Moyamba. What a shame! My Chairman and I felt so bad; we would have just left Kono, come to Tongo and then to Kenema, simple! The connectivity road from Kono to Tongo to Kenema should be prioritized. You do not need to come back all the way that circular route to get to Southeast from the Northwest. Let us connect ourselves, and facilities like the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Lands and other related Ministries should be placed in the center, which is Yele. In fact if I have my way, a new city should not go to Mamamah; it should go to Yele. Mamamah is more suitable for a new Airport. By so doing, part of the Capital City will be North-West and the other part will be South-East, headed by the same Mayor. If that is done, the regional divide will fade out with time. So Madam SLRA, please take note of that.

Finally on that point, if I tell you the issues you will shed tears because it is very unfair. Mr Speaker, Bumbuna is crying foul, and I want Madam SLRA to listen to me. Under the APC Government, it was because of the Bumbuna Mines that Sierra Leone was recorded as the Fastest Growing Economy in the world. For that reason, you would agree with me that Bumbuna is one of the bread baskets for Mining Industries that are giving lots of money to the Coffers of Government. Bumbuna is also the bread basket for electricity as I speak. But

Government in Government out, Bumbuna is nowhere to be seen in terms of road infrastructure. Magbura ka to Bumbuna should have been tarred long since. Madam SLRA, Bumbuna as a bread basket of Electricity and Iron Ore Mines is crying foul. Up till now Bumbuna has no good road, why? Please remember Bumbuna. In fact, my next point will shock you, but as an adopted son of Donald Trump, I will tell who I am, and if you hate me, start campaigning against me now because if I come I will do what I say.

Madam Kaday of Sierra Leone Housing Corporation, what is happening with our baby, the OAU Village? Government in, Government out has given the OAU Village to private people, why? And now, government is seeking out for places to build new Offices in order not to rent Offices at exorbitant prices but there is no available land. Government in, Government out have transformed State Land to private property.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as an adopted son of Donald Trump, let me tell you now that if I have my way, I will fence the entire OAU Village, and not talk to anybody. If this my plan goes well with you, then pray for me; if it does not go on well with you, start campaigning against me now. Today is the 19th of December, 2024, so if you do not like my position, start campaigning against me now because I want you to know that if I have my way, the day I assume power we will fence the OAU Village without reference to anybody. That Village belongs to Government, why do you change it to private property? One of the challenges for Government in and Government out is that there is no land to bring development or build Offices; northing, all is gone. Madam Housing Corporation, this is wrong, this is unfair. As Chair, I congratulate you in advance, but once you take up Office, know that that is my opinion, and I will do it if I have my way. I know women can do better, that is why I am not happy today; I had wanted at least ten women, but nevertheless, we will accept it as it is. But please take notes that my opinion is that if I have my way, I will do exactly what I have said.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me address the Nominee for Internal Affairs Ministry. Mr Lengor, various speakers have spoken on this point; that you are not the first to be the Internal Affairs Minister and you will not be the last. Your office is just for a time, and during the interview, I asked you this question but you attempted to dodge giving the correct answer. Now you cannot dodge because you cannot directly speak to me; I have the right to speak to you. Now, upon your confirmation and approval by this House, please take note of Bike Riders within the Central Business District [CBD]. Their conduct is becoming unacceptable, and your predecessor used to put measures in place to prevent them from

clogging the streets of the CBD and it worked. Getting them off the streets was good but I do not know why it stopped, and now there is no law; the police are overwhelmed and can hardly control them. Can you please make that your first assignment in three months and then report to this House? I am not Mr Speaker, I cannot use **S.O** 42, but I can only recommend to Mr Speaker, and if he deems it fit, you will be tested in the this particular regards and then you report to the Internal Affairs Committee in three months , commencing 1st of January. This is becoming unacceptable and it must stop. At least let there be specific demarcations where the Bike Riders stop and allow the Central District to be cleared of Bike Riders.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is time for everything under the sun, and on that note, I want to speak just for one minute to a very fine nominee here; Mr Koivaya Amara. When I entered year one at the University, I think Mr Koivaya Amara was at Final Honours Two. By the way this man is not my friend, he is not my blood brother; nothing. But this man saw something in me and took me up, and gave me free lectures. Today, I am who I am, and he is before me here for approval, what do you expect? People usually say '*one good turn deserves another*', and today you are here to be approved. On that note Honourable Members, I hereby approve Mr Koivaya Amara to serve as Chairman, PPRC. Mr Amara you deserve it; you planted, and this is the time to harvest.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I take my seat, I want to implore this House to set aside the gender disparity, inequality, and abuse of this approval process; let us just bear it up. I know that is why Mama of the House and the head of the Female Caucus never said anything [*undertone*] I am a spirit man; I can scan you, I have a spirit of discernment to know what is in you. I know that you chose not to speak anything, not because the Pa is here; but because you are not happy. So please, take it easy, I vouch that it will not happen again. Next time, we cannot approve less than **15%** women. But at least for the purpose of today, I urge Honourable Members to approve these fine nominees to go and do their work. Thank you very much, and may God bless you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member for your contribution. Yes, Honourable Chief Whip. After Honourable Chief Whip, the the Paramount Chief, then with special leave of Mr Speaker, I am going to give the Female Caucus Leader two minutes to talk for our women, then we round up.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, when I was debating the Presidential speech, I said something in this Well which I want to repeat. Most

MPs here speak to the Gallery but do not speak to the fact. Mr Speaker, heartening for me to say this: what the APC did not do in eleven years is what they want us to do in six years. APC was in power for eleven years and they sold all the OAU Villas, and apart from selling the OAU Villas, **90%** of those occupying the Villas are all members of the APC. And now a Member of the APC is telling us that when they come back they will fence the whole OAU Village. This is sending a signal that if we allow those guys to come back they will exactly do what they have started saying.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Dickson Rogers, hold on.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, please, please.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, hold on, hold on.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: No Mr Speaker, please.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on. Honourable Chief Whip, do not be personate.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: I am not.

THE SPEAKER: Go easy, go easy, and do not be personate.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I am going easy.

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member was also talking about the Interconnection of roads. For eleven years they did not connect Kono with Tongo, eleven years they did not connect Moyamba, and today he wants to paint a very bad picture of the SLPP. What they did not do for eleven years is what they want us to do in six years; we do not have magic. Mr Speaker, the Honourable said Bumbuna is the bread basket of this country, we agree, but it was the same in 2012 to 2017, what did they do?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having said that, let me say thank you to HE the President for nominating these fine personalities. Today, I am a proud ‘Wanjamarian’ because I am seeing three important and hardworking people among the nominees. But Mr Speaker, let me disappoint my wife because she might be thinking that when I get hold of the Mic I would first of all speak on behalf of her son. However, I am first going to take somebody who has sacrificed tremendously for this nation. We are where we are today because of his sacrifice. I am talking about no less a person but Mr Lengor. Mr Lengor is one of the contributors to the

Force for Good we have today. Apart from Mr Lengor being a fine police, he was a very disciplined and hardworking Police Officer If the Sierra Leone Police is where it is today, we can give that credit to Mr Lengor.

Mr Lengor, you were a Police man, and you used to give orders to your junior Officers. But where you going now, you are not going to be giving orders, but you are going to be working with others. Therefore, I am asking you to blend your hard work, discipline and your diplomatic acumen to bring the Ministry of Internal Affairs to the level that we are expecting.

Like my colleague on the other side said, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has a lot to do with our security. You have very unassuming young man who is the CIO, and I believe with your leadership and guidance, you will work with him better.

Mr Speaker, let me report to this House that when we got attacked at Masiaka, had it not been the intervention of God and one person, some of us would not have been alive today. That person is no less a person than Retired CDS, General Lavahun. I was in a company with the Clerk of the House when we got attacked. He is a man who was very good at picking calls, and just a phone call to inform him that we were under attack, he was able to dispatch an escort team to us in less than ten minutes and we drove to Freetown safely. Thank you very much for that, Mr Lavahun. I hope that when you get to Kenya you will exhibit same type of leadership quality. Just like I said to Mr Lengor, you also used to give orders, but now you are going to work with other sectors, please go and make us proud as Sierra Leoneans. The President nominated and sent you to Parliament for us to probe and ascertain whether you are fit for purpose, and that is exactly what we have done. You are fit for the job and we hope that you will excel and bring a very good record to Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as for the Ambassador going to Brussels *[interrupted]...*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Rogers, this meeting is stood down for 3 minutes for obvious reason.

[The House stood down at 11:38am and resumed at 11:43am]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Dickson Rogers, Chief Whip, proceed.

HON DICKSON M. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, one thing I want us to do in this Well is to preach unity as a nation. We should not be talking about divisive politics; I think this House should be above that. Having said that Mr Speaker, let me come back to the reason why we are here today.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have nice and hardworking gentlemen and beautiful ladies for approval today. Mr Speaker, allow me to zoom in on Mr Totangi. Mr Totangi has been a journalist before now, and a successful journalist for that matter. Mr Umaru Fofanah, a very renowned Journalist is here and I believe he could attest to that. So Mr Totangi actually deserves the appointment given to him. Mr Totangi is coming from a very respectful family, and I believe he will continue to work harder if approved to take up the position. Mr Totangi is a very hard working man that is determined to support the development of the country and by extension defends the District he is coming from. I can vow that he is surely going to make us proud.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we also have very beautiful lady that is going as the Board Member of the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank, if approved. Mr Speaker, I got to know this woman when she came back from Abroad and wanted to contest for a Political Party Symbol. Even though she was determined to have the Symbol that year, she was persuaded to wait and she listened. That shows she is somebody that listens, and I believe she is a woman that can deliver not only for her District, but for the country. She is somebody that is highly respected in her District, and I can vow for her that she is going to change the face of the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Resident Minister designate is someone who has suffered a lot. I heard people advising him not to change his character now that he is about to assume this position. I can vouch that Mr Abu is somebody that nothing changes. So Mr Abu, please continue your hard work.

Mr Speaker, when I look at those beautiful and handsome nominees, what comes to mind is that these are 2028 winning team because there is no way these set of people will allow APC to come back to this country because like President Bio once said, '*the APCs are not good for themselves, they are not good for this country*'.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me end up by saying '*he who laughs last, laughs the best*'. I want to end with Dr Ibrahim Kanja Sesay; a very unassuming, handsome and hardworking gentleman. I want to say that Dr Ibrahim Kanja Sesay is coming from very fine home and a good family, and he is a young man that I believe will protect and preserve the image and legacy of his Sesay family. Dr Ibrahim Kanja Sesay, please go and make the Sesay family proud and preserve the legacy of Dr Alhaji Kanja Sesay. If you are given that appointment today, I am sure it was because of the contributions and hard work of your

father, although you too have worked hard. So please, go and make us proud as a family, go and work for this nation, and go and work for the party.

Honourable Helen Kuyembeh, like the Deputy Leader said, we were all in this House together in 2012, and we know what you are capable of doing. So please, you know that when some of those positions are given to you, they might not be given to you as individual; those are positions that are kept for retired Members of Parliament. So when you work hard in that position, I am sure if I retire tomorrow I might be appointed as Chairman of SLRSA. So please go and make us proud. Of course you have never let us down because you are a very disciplined and hardworking woman.

Ambassador Sowa, when you were at the Ministry of Education, you did a lot to project a very good image of this country in terms of education. I am sure the nation will benefit from your appointment. Please do not turn your back from the Ministry of Education; we still need more Donors to come to our educational sector in order to maintain good image and successes we have made in that Ministry. So please do not let the Ministry of Education down, and do not let this House down.

To all those Ambassadors, your boss is here, please make him proud. He has never been to this Parliament unless he is appointed. But he is here today because he has his Ambassadors who are going to be approved by this House. Like I said, this is a face of 2028; the winning team of 2028.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have no doubt in the ability of Amara Koivaya in making the PPRC succeed. Mr Koivaya, do not listen to the campaign message my colleague on the other side was giving out to you. Just do the right things, because all what he was doing was just campaigning. We know that you are a hardworking gentleman because you have proven it to this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to confirm that all the appointees in front of us today are qualified, and I am sure they are all capable of doing their jobs. On that note, I want to call on colleagues to speedily approve them. To all the Appointees, please make this Parliament proud because we are telling the nation that you are qualified for the jobs that you have been appointed for. Thank you very much Mr Secretary General of SLPP for putting together this winning team. Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to add my voice to this debate. .

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Chief Whip for your contribution. Honourable Mema Kajue.

HON. PC. HAJA FATMATA BINTU KOROMA MEAMA KAJUE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I thank the President very much for appointing these fine nominees before us today. And I also want to thank the Committee that brought them before us after doing due diligence by going through their resumes to see that they are qualified for the jobs they have been nominated to perform. And to the Nominees, you had a lot of admonition from most of the speakers as you are about taking up your new Offices. I know you would listen to their admonitions and do your best so that the President will not be disappointed in you. Also remember those telling you about your relationship between your Office and this Parliament. Please always listen to them when they go to you, because you rely on this Parliament; they are going to make you what you will be in the next few hours. So please, do not just sweep their presence like nothing good.

And to my colleagues Paramount Chiefs who have also been appointed. Remember we have 190 Paramount Chiefs in this country, and most of them will want to be appointed but you have to make the way for them. Go to those Offices and work to the best of your abilities to make Mr President happy, and let him truly feel that we are partners in development so that he would continue appointing more Paramount Chiefs to those Offices.

And to the former CDS, I will not end this debate without talking about you. I feel so proud over your appointment. Most of the speakers here spoke well about you, the Ambassador designate to Kenya who is an indigene of Mano Dasseh Chiefdom. Former CDS, the people of Mano Dasseh are proud of you, and we are praying for you. Remember, one speaker from this side said during his debate that no foreign officer has ever brought good result to this country. I know you would change that narrative, and I pray that you develop all it takes to change that narrative.

So on that note, I want to thank Mr Speaker, the Committee Members, and the President for appointing all of the Nominees. Remember, out of seven million people, he decided to choose you for these Offices; please do not disappoint him. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The Female Caucus Leader, you have two minutes.

HON. BERNADETTE WUYATTA SONGA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I have no intention to debate because I know all have been spoken. But Mr Speaker, I won't let it pass by without congratulating the ladies that have been nominated today. I heard my colleague Leader very clearly when he said we have very few women among the nominees here today. But I would like to say that we are still grateful because we cannot achieve it all in one go. If

it is the **30%** quota, we have achieved that as a country. We would continue to ask for more; however we continue to appreciate every little drop of it. We are hoping that His Excellency is a listening President and that by the next time we have appointees here we would have more women. And to my women forks, on behalf of all the female MPs in this Parliament, we want to wish you all well, please make the women of Sierra Leone proud in your different Offices. We continue to believe in ourselves, and we continue to hope that more women would be appointed to various positions. And all of that will happen if you deliver in your various offices. We know women can do it better, and we know when you put women in places, all you can ask for is result, result, result. We all know that women are less corrupt, capable and can deliver more in society. We continue to appreciate the men, but we similarly continue to ask for more rooms for women to perform.

Mr Speaker, I stand here in two capacities; one as the President of the Female Caucus of the Sixth Parliament of Sierra Leone, and the other as the Caucus Head of Kailahun District. And so on that note Mr Speaker, I want to congratulate all indigenes of Kailahun. I would like to know that all the ten MPs from Kailahun cannot debate; as you can see we are short of time. But I want you all to know that Kailahun District is extremely proud of all of you, we wish you well, and we want to thank His Excellency for remembering Kailahun. We have no doubt that you all delivered because you are from the only District that knows how to do it best. Go out there and do what you are known for and deliver well.

Mr Speaker, I know my two minutes is down, but I cannot sit without speaking about the former Chairman of NaCSA, and to the present nominated Chairman for NaCSA who is no lesser person than my own PC from my Constituency, PC Foday. I want to thank you PC Foday for all you did at NaCSA; the peace and harmony you brought to NaCSA is unexplainable and unimaginable; we want to appreciate you for that.

And for Mr Alie who is the Lion of the South, you are going to a place that is well stable based on what we used to know it to be. Please work with the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner, including all the staff. Learn from the good works of your predecessor. We know that your presence and collaborative working relationship with your brothers will surely make you deliver.

And to my son Alusine Kargbo, you know my wish for you; as a grassroots person, go and deliver for your people in the North. To all the Ambassadors, everything has been spoken about you. We believe in your Diplomatic relationships that you will be strengthening in those countries. Please go and make Sierra Leone proud.

To my women appointees, always knock on the door of the Female Caucus in this Parliament, and we would be ready to support you and we are extremely proud of you, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Member. I would not allow this House to round up without giving somebody a special leave to address the nominees, and that person is the Champion of the GEWE Bill and the champion of women, not only in Sierra Leone, but in West Africa. The Mama of the House let us hear you for another two minutes.

HON. VERONICA KADDIE SESAY: Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Once a Mama is always a Mama, not so?

HON. VERONICA K. SESAY: Thank you, Sir, and I thank you very much for recognizing me. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, and my beautiful and handsome Nominees, I sat here quietly listening because I believe each and every one of those who have spoken did justice to the Nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to correct my senior colleague out there who said we are quiet because we have not seen many women among the Nominees. No, that is not the case; we appreciate the representation. Thank you very much for the observation but we do appreciate. We always do like Oliver Twist; we believe His Excellency will do more for the women of this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to the nominees; you are going to serve the people of Sierra Leone, and I have no doubt that you will do justices. You are all qualified and fitted for the jobs that have been slated for you. If I say I am going to select you one after the other we will not leave this place today. And because we have a long day today, I am just going to zoom in on two people because you are all qualified.

Of course to my sister, Honourable Helen Kuyembeh, we have been in this House together, and I hope and pray that all that has been said about you will be manifested; you lead and others will follow.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I said, let me just zoom in on two people who are new and are going to take up new Offices. Dr Mohamed Sesay and Madam Mamadi Ngobeh Kamara you are going to new dispensations and environments if approved. Of course for Dr Mohamed Sesay, according to your resume, we know that your assigned station is like a home to you because you have been there once and you know it all. However, note that you are going alongside your sister. At times people underrate or neglect their Deputies. I always

frown at such attitudes because Deputies should not be seen as puppets; you leave them on their own. You have to work together, and do not make them irrelevant. Know that you are going there as new people, and please work together because His Excellency is expecting much from you. Of course both of you have worked as Diplomats; You and Mamadi have been to Foreign Missions. I am specifically addressing the two of you because you are going to a new dispensation where French is the Official Language. Like you heard from one of my colleagues, I am a living testimony; I am in the EOCOWAS Parliament, and my main problem there is the French language barrier. And because of that we often speak through signs because some of us refused to learn French in those days. I never loved my French master when I was in School, not knowing that I was doing harm to myself. For that reason, I want to call on you to go and advocate for us to start benefiting from facilities that would encourage our children to study French; send us some French books so that our children will start to learn French. As I said, I have no doubt in you because of the homes you are coming from. I believe you would work together in order to match up to the expectation of the country and your parents who are seated here to listen to the accolades given to you. So please do not let them down; make them proud, and go and live to the expectations of the people of this country.

To all of you, like I earlier said, you are qualified and I know you can do it.

Of course for John Abu, I have known him for the past years. When we were in Bo, **S.O 2**, '*we used to La la pin ter* [in Temne]; that is to say, we used to go in and out to find the way forward and now you are there. There is an adage which says '*Patient dog eats the fattest bone*'. Having patient enough, now you have been appointed to serve as the Resident Minister for Southern Region; Bo, Bonthe, Moyamba and Pujehun. We are surely going to follow up on you in order to make you succeed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, to all the other nominees, including the Paramount Chiefs, I wish them well. One thing I love about this set of nominees today is the inclusiveness. Some people are frowning or have been misinforming others that if you are Kamara, Bangura, Koroma you will not be appointed by the SLPP. But now just look at the team; we have Kargbos, Sesays, Banguras, among many others. This clearly demonstrates the level of inclusiveness that the SLPP has. We want inclusion, and that is why His Excellency thought it fit to do the mixing.

So with that, I want to once more assure you that I have no doubt in you to go and do justice in your various Offices, and by extension live to the expectation of His Excellency who has

appointed you. Without much ado, I want to say thank you my abled Speaker for giving me this opportunity to address the nominees.

THE SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have always seen this as a glorious opportunity to talk on Appointees from the highest offices of this nation. So in no uncertain terms, I think this House should not be political in debating people who are going to serve the entire nation. So to me, I have always held the greatest exception to anybody or Member of Parliament that may want to go political when we are debating nominees from His Excellency the President. I also think very strongly that utterances made by the Chief Whip are uncalled for because those who are on Government Bench have the moral obligation to ensure that the debates are not controversial because Appointees are coming from government. I have always advised MPs from my own side that when we are debating Nominees from His Excellency, we should be very nationalistic because we do not expect them to serve one political party; they are serving Sierra Leoneans regardless of their political opinion, political shades, region or tribe. So to me, Members of Parliament should work hard to ensure that we renege from insinuating political debate when debating Appointees from His Excellency the president. Well interestingly, I came and I met my Whip of the Opposition debating and he was so emotional, and his debate really touched me and I also felt the pain he was feeling. But interestingly, when he was ending his debate, he was extraordinary braggadocios about '*Generals*' being appointed by His Excellency, he said, '*we have a lot of 'Libretes' that have been appointed by His Excellency the President*'. I looked at him I shook my head and I told Honourable Daniel Koroma that if he knows what I know he would not talk about political lineage whilst we were in college. At every given time when Appointees come here from His Excellency, the Auradicals Club has always had the biggest share.

On that note, I would begin my debate with a comrade of the Auradicals Club. Of course when I joined the Auradicals Club, the Dictator by then was Dictator Napoleon. And interestingly, I did not say **initiated** to the Auradicals Club, instead, I said, I **joined** the Auradicals Club because we do not **initiate**; we **induce**. And for me as an Engineer by profession, **induction** is a borrowed term from Electromagnetisms, and it is defined as the process of getting an uncharged body charged by bring it closer to a charged body. They were the charged bodies and we were the uncharged bodies. So when we went closer to them they transferred their charged energy to us. We do not initiate at the Auradicals.

PPRC is a very strategic Office; they deal with all political parties. I want to seize this opportunity to publicly and unhesitatingly thank the former holder of that office, Mr Bangura. He did extremely well to ensure that he created a level playing field for Political Parties to participate in the 2023 Elections. Almost three months to elections, there was no Flagbearer for the main Opposition Party. Mr Bangura did all he could to ensure that the process was competitive and we participated in the process. This is the task that you have been given; you cannot strangulate one Political Party for the growth of another Political Party. You should create a uniform playing field for all Political Parties. You do not always have to listen to instructions from above. We have dogmatic people in our political parties; when I say our Political Parties, it is without exception to the Political Party I belong. You should serve Political Parties with your conscience. Like I have always maintained, for whatever responsibility you have today, you will be judged one day for what you did or what you did not do; even if it is not by God, but posterity will judge you. I want to advise you to ensure that you do the correct thing, and always be at peace with your conscience. People will call you from various Political Parties, wanting to influence you but ensure that your conscience is your first adviser. I wish you very well in that Office.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, people say a chick that will grow to be a Cock is identified the first day it is hatched. I am making this statement in reference to the proposed Ambassador to France. I have not had much interaction with you, but few things that gave me total confidence to know that you will serve this nation are that you have made conscious effort to deliberately follow the footsteps of your father. I am a Member of the All Peoples Congress [APC] Political Party, and a Member of the first and second highest organ of the party, which is the NAC. But I would stand here and unhesitatingly state that the former Minister of Energy is a good man. I could remember when I was superintending over the Secretariat of my party as the Secretary, and there was a day we had a programme at our party's office, and we were so constrained because our Generator went bad, and there was no electricity. I had to call that man once, and he said Abdul, consider it done. And to me, this should be the relationship between SLPP and APC; we are not enemies, for God sake. No one political party will remain in office forever. Therefore you have to ensure that you do not see a Sierra Leonean from the other side as your enemy. That is why whenever we have the opportunity to say it publicly we do, because they are more Sierra Leoneans than Members of the SLPP.

So I want you to hold that same mentality when you go to France; ensure that you treat all Sierra Leoneans who are residing in France equally. Of course, we have no doubt in your

credentials because, as my deputy said, I am equally a Member of the Appointment Committee, to the extent that we had to ask you questions in French and you responded appropriately. So we know the level of intelligence and composure you exhumed in front of the Committee. We certainly do not doubt that you will deliver. I have always said that whenever someone is appointed to any office, before that person leaves that office, he or she must have a pointer; do not leave the office as you met it. Do something that nobody ever did in that office; you should be innovative. So I wish you well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me move now to SALWACO. Of course, we have seen the very serious challenges we have in the rural communities, especially when it comes to water supply. But like I said, the same mentality must be transmitted in all ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government. We should learn to serve the people regardless of their political shades, regardless of their regions, and regardless of their tribes. I remember when Mr Munda was the Director General of SALWACO, by then there was Corona and people were not allowed to go out; there was a lock down and my people were suffering from lack of water supply. I called Mr Munda, and he left Portloko, drove with the Bowser to Lungi and he stood there whilst they supplied water to the people; he is also a good man. This is the mentality; President Bio did not appoint you to serve only the people that voted for SLPP. You are expected to serve Sierra Leoneans in general. So I want to crave that SALWACO improves its services in the rural areas, and ensure that we have sufficient water supply.

To the appointment of the former police boss, retired AIG Morie Lengor Esq. to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Mr Lengor, you have a big task to perform. With your experience as a former Police Officer, I am sure you have the prerequisite capacity to handle that task. What I have learnt about my country is that if you want to make a good name, you would have to compromise the law. But if you want to let the right thing happen to Sierra Leone, you would have to be in the bad books of some people. That should not bother you because you have a conscience, posterity and a God to serve; these should be your fears. Make sure that you effect changes in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. We have all seen the progress made at the Administrative sector; they are rapid and spontaneous. Recently I saw them parading the streets of Freetown showcasing what they have done. So I want to seize this opportunity to on behalf of our Parliament to similarly commend the good works of the Chief of Immigration. Parliament should be proud because, when a product of this Parliament is appointed and he performs well in his office, we should be proud of that. So I want to seize this opportunity on behalf of my team to commend the good works of the Chief of Immigration who served in this House as the Deputy Chief Whip.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for EGTC, we have all seen Public Statement made by His Excellency the President. As politicians, we have one responsibility; to ensure that we provide services for the people who sang and danced for us. They would not want to know how we go about it, they would not want to know the challenges we face; all they want to know is how we are able to provide them with the basic amenities they need. So I want to implore you to ensure that we do our level best.

Now to the appointment made to NaCSA. Of course we have seen social projects being executed by government. I could remember when we had the Ebola, Government came with the Quick Economic Response Program [QERP], and there were five schematic areas, and one of which was to give support to SMEs. So I want to advise that proper modalities are instituted so that when such social programs are instituted by government, they are implemented in every District. I want to thank the Boss of NaCSA, and I want to advise you to continue to serve Sierra Leoneans.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know of course that this House would have a very long day, and because of our next program on the Order Paper, I would not hold this House to ransom. I would therefore ask that Mr Philp Bob Jusu, you have been appointed as Ambassador to Brussels, Belgium. Please treat every Sierra Leonean there equally, including the ones you think are bad; so every Sierra Leonean, whether good or bad or ugly must be treated equally.

Lieutenant General Retired Peter Lavahun, you are going to Kenya. We always know that there is diplomacy in the Military, so use your diplomacy to ensure that you raise the flag of our country; you are the face of Sierra Leone out there, and whatever you do will reflect back to our nation.

Mr Speaker, I remember when we went to Egypt, the Ambassador, in our presence held series of meetings with investors in Egypt, luring them to come and invest in Sierra Leone. Please ensure that when you go to Kenya, create similar opportunity for the Government of Sierra Leone in Kenya. Ensure you portray a very good image and lure investors to come and invest in our country.

Now to you, Rtd. Major General David Fred Alpha, Deputy High Commissioner to Abuja, Nigeria. Rtd. Major General, Abuja is the hub of West Africa/ Africa politics. You must make sure that you have a very good diplomatic atmosphere whilst you are there because Abuja is

the resident of the heavy weight of our politics. So please make sure you do your level best to represent us very well.

Mamadi Ngobeh Kamara, proposed Deputy Ambassador Extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Paris, France, I guess you were listening whilst I was addressing the proposed Ambassador. So copy what I said in his stead, remove his name and replace it with your own name.

Mr Kalilu Ibrahim Totangi, proposed Deputy Permanent Representative, Political, United Nations, you are going out to a very big platform, the United Nations. I wish you well in that Office and you have a lot to learn. I have always said that age has nothing to do with one's capacity, and some Ministers have proven me right. One of them that I will always hold to the highest of esteem is the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Timothy Kabba, yes. You know, one thing I always say is that politics has been so entrenched in our society that an Opposition will always be afraid to say good things about somebody in the Governing Bench, and somebody in Government will always be afraid to say good things about somebody in the Opposition. This generation must break that, and that is what we are practicing now. The Minister, Timothy Kabba is a good man; he has expanded Sierra Leone Foreign Relations and brought in so many countries. Regardless of his age, all the Ambassadors have a lot to copy from him.

Mr Raymond Katta, I wish you well in your Office; Produce Monitoring Board. We have always had issues with what is produced here. In a school in Ghana, just in one day they lost 192 pupils because of what they consumed in that school. Your Office is huge, and you have to ensure that you serve Sierra Leoneans diligently. I wish you well.

Mr Joseph Munda Bindi, proposed Chairman, National Council for Civic Education and Democracy. Mr Bindi, I have known you for a while and you have done exceptionally well whilst you were at the Bo Council. Now you have the bigger responsibility, please ensure you do your best to this nation.

Mrs Mensurah, proposed Member of the Board of Commercial Bank. Of course we have seen a lot of monetary policies instituted to ensure that we stabilize the economy. The economy is still challenged; you have to work tooth and nail to ensure that we bring down the exchange rate.

Mr Jonathan Danemah, Dr Wusu Sannoh, Mr Alusine Kargbo, I wish you all well in your new responsibilities. Remember today, and when the clock ticks, be thinking of what you have achieved in your offices. It is not only for these people to gather here and dance and sing for you, and at the end of the day you disappoint them and the nation; it is about what you will

do. We have well over 7 million Sierra Leoneans, and for the fact that you have been appointed, it means you have the moral obligation to deliver. Remember, when I was referring to Honourable Kanneh who was the Deputy Whip, I did say that whosoever goes through Parliament, when he or she is given another opportunity to serve, he or she will be very judicious because Parliament exposes you to governance. Do not ever underestimate the governance capacity of a Member of Parliament. Do not ever do that because a Member of Parliament touches every nook and cranny of governance. So I have no scintilla of doubt that Honourable Mrs Helen Kuyembeh will do good at the SLRA.

Dr David John Cooper on the other hand is a colleague Engineer; we were at Fourah Bay College together, and I think I was senior for him. When he met us at the Appointment Committee and said he is a Dr, I was impressed, and I said, **S.O 2**, *'mi man you don learn book oooh, we dae pan speak English nor mor na Parliament'*. Dr Cooper, I hope that academic qualification would be translated to delivery for this country. You are a young man; you will live more years to see the fruit of your work. It will be bad for somebody to say '*this person was given this opportunity but look how he performed whilst he was given that opportunity*'. So, young people are always afraid that the wheels of history will hold them responsible one day. So as a young man, I wish you all the best in that Office and I pray that you would transform this nation.

Madam Zorokong, Ministry of Housing and Corporation, and Ambassador Sheikh Mohamed Sowa, I wish you well. If anybody is sensitive enough, he would realize that whenever I have to talk about any comrade, I have no iota or scintilla of doubt that that comrade would perform because that is what we were trained for; to be outstanding. Mr Speaker is watching me because he was on the other side whilst we were in college.

PC Foday Musa, the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion is one office that is to be treated very seriously. We have all seen the internal rancor, we have all seen what ensued after the elections, and we have all seen the role played by this Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion. They were so pivotal in the signing of the Agreement for National Unity between the Government of Sierra Leone and the All Peoples Congress [APC] Party. That is why whenever we have an opportunity to talk, we always remind government to make conscious effort and expedite the implementation of proposals on the Agreement of National Unity and the Recommendations of the Tripartite Committee. The Commission is very important, and I hope you will do your best.

Mr Ibrahim Njai Amara, proposed Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration. I have heard a lot of complaints about Maritime, especially in the last Parliament. I hope your coming into the Board will help solve most of the problems we have there.

Mrs Olayinka Winifred Laggah, Board Member, Bank of Sierra Leone. Of course you were in front of us the other day and we were pleased with your presentation; we were pleased with the responses you gave to critical questions posed to you, and we have no doubt that you will deliver. We wish you very well in that office.

PC Sadik Kapuwa, Chairman, National Issuance Company [SLICO]. Mr Speaker, I have always held a view about Insurances in Sierra Leone. You take Insurance only because the Police will arrest you if you do not have it; but there is nothing you gain from insuring your vehicle. Somebody may hit your vehicle in this country and will ask no questions, while in other countries, the Issuance Company will pay money for repairs. We also want to see Insurance Companies take up their responsibilities; let us not insure our vehicles only because of law or because of fear of Police Officers. Insurance Companies need to be accountable.

So Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, owing to the very long sitting we have today, I want to plead with this House that we pass these Appointees that have been appointed to various positions, and I pray that they deliver for the betterment of our only country call Sierra Leone. May God bless all of you.

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

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Colleagues, thank very much for your numerous contributions towards the approval of the Presidential Nominees. I want to thank especially my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for the advice they have given our Nominees. I want to thank you for all what you have done, as that is the way we build the nation, and that is how we are going to move. We are comrade from the Auradicals' Club; the only Social Political Club we have in the Universities. I said that because we always try to bring positivity in governance and see how best we can change the political dynamics. As a matter of fact, most times what we do is to make sure we argue our policies on points that have to do with the nation building. So thank you very much, you were just on point to make sure that we understand what is happening.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members, I heard the Deputy Leader of the Opposition talking about the female representation in this particular batch of Nominees we have today. I have not

done the mathematical calculation to look at whether the **30%** is present in this case or not. If my memory can serve me well, let me just quote the words of President Bio in this very Chamber of Parliament during the opening of the Sixth Parliament. My colleagues were not here, so they were not able to read the minutes of the last meeting, but I can entreat them by making that quota for women, which serves as a form of commitment and a testament of love of the nation by President Bio. President Bio is the audacity of hope of this nation; he sacrificed his own life, personal ambition and preferred to do away with friends and in the interest of the nation.

If my memory can serve me well, when we were about to bring women to our folds based on what we got during the first Administration in the Fifth Parliament from 2018 to 2023, the president, after the elections in 2023 talked about infusing women into our democratic space; bring more women into the face of our democracy forms the tapestry of our democracy. That statement was just a supportive statements and commitment; and he has been very consistent even in his Presidential Address to this nation. In Paragraphs 132 and 133, the President talks about empowering women of this nation. I can remember in one of his statements the President said, '*if you empower a woman or a girl child you have empowered a whole nation*'.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, by collective drive, what the President has done is for you to look at the composition of the Cabinet and grade what he has done for the women based on the **30%** quota. We have had a situation wherein only women were brought to this Chamber for approval to very critical and forthright positions. When you take a look at their resumes, comparatively they far better than some men we have probed in this House for approval. Even in this group, we have women with strong resumes who have worked in so many places. We do not make policies because we want to satisfy the public; we roll out policies to change the dynamics or the trajectory of this country because '*he who feels it knows it*'. We do not make and talk about polices here because we want to satisfy those in the Gallery; we try to roll out policies based on what people are expecting. So because of his audacity of hope, His Excellency the President is very aware of what is happening. It is very difficult for changes to be embraced, but you can appreciate what he is doing.

So in as much as you have helped us to make sure that we change the democratic face of this country, we would continue to call on you to work with us to champion the issues. Let us collaborate and give these people who have served this nation with dexterity the positions of responsibility where they can deliver for us.

As somebody said, your resumes can help in shaping you to where you are going, but they cannot help you in transforming the Ministry or the Department that you are going because human beings are the most dynamic and difficult creation to deal with. Some of these positions you have been appointed to are not regimental, wherein you give direct instructions and they are carried out immediately, and if not, some kind of punishment may follow. You are going to democratic institutions, and so there is a way you play around people; you apply diplomacy for the achievement of what you desire. So the chemistry for us to succeed as Sierra Leoneans is simple. I have given the description that if we want to succeed the changing dynamics and trajectory under the new direction, the formula is simple; it has to be SLPP, cum APC, cum the Paramount Chiefs whom we normally refer to as the honorary people in our own localities. The catalyst we have is good policies, and what we get in turn enriches the democracy of this nation. Mr Speaker that is the basic formula we are using to change the face of this country, which is why you are seeing progressive laws coming to this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, we have had challenges but that cannot stop us to drive the progress of this nation. The fear of accident cannot stop us from doing the right thing or driving a car. Because of the faith and hope we have in this nation, no matter what, with the formula I have given you, our destination is assured. That is why irrespective of the mantra '*Osi owai*', the Paramount Chiefs whose supports are from the grassroots and the nation first, turn to the SLPP's '*One country one people*'. No matter the fear within them, there is only one thing we have which is enshrined in the Manifesto that we present to the people. The faith, the destiny and the transformation of this country is at the topmost of our agenda. Whether you in the Opposition, or in the Governing Bench, that is what we are driving towards. That is why I refuse to name an individual when doing my description today, but I am going to end with Constitutional provisions. And Mr Speaker with your leave, I am going to read them deliberately before I take my seat. Mr Speaker, we are not going to a position of trust because we are APC, SLPP, etc. We have been given the responsibility to deliver for this nation, and that is why we said mixture of mixture all is mixture. We have not looked at your cards as to whether you belong to the APC or SLPP; what we have looked at is your faces as Sierra Leonean to deliver in the interest of this nation. As I call on you to serve with dexterity, you should be also happy to accept personal innuendos when you take your offices. Do not say because you have been advised to tolerate MPs you should compromise your jobs; do the right thing. In a Multilateral Missions you are going to deal with all shades of people; you do not ask them whether they are SLPP or APC. All you need to care about is whether the

person is a Sierra Leonean, if yes, go ahead and do the job. Mr Speaker that is what Appointees are supposed to do when given positions of trust. Positions are distributed based on service and merit, **S.O 2**, ‘*udat die for you, you go rotten for ram*’. So we do not forget the political lineage, but in the aspect where we talk about nation building, the supra Sierra Leone is always taken into consideration.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, we are mindful of the fact that we should always be careful of what we do when we have Presidential Nominees. The title of ‘*Members of Parliament*’ is given to us to represent our people, but it is difficult for them to understand the jobs we do. That is why we have Gallery filled with people, some of whom are members of the Fourth Estate. There is no journalist incarcerated under this Administration for performing his profession. So when we stand to speak in this Chamber we do not speak with malice; we speak with the true sense of patriotism. As Members of Parliament, we are the supreme body as enshrined in Section **105** of the Constitution we make Laws. We allow Journalists to describe us in a fair and not biased manner. That is why Mr Speaker, as a progressive Parliament under your supervision we have created a Desk for the Civil Society Organizations to change the trajectory of this Parliament; the people’s House. The reason why we are doing this is for the public to ask about anything they do not understand, and we can explain. We are giving you the best we can. We expect that when we give something we would receive something in return. Mr Speaker, we allow bashing after doing the wrong thing, but we are very good listeners in terms of discharging our duties as Members of Parliament. Hold us and these Nominees accountable if we are not doing the right thing.

The statement of my colleague, Honourable Daniel Koroma was very philosophical. When you started they thought he was going to bash at the Governing Bench, but when he concluded, my other senior colleague on the other side agreed that indeed, the presentation of Honourable Daniel Koroma was very philosophical and logically concluded.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when we took governance, or when we were given positions of trust, they said we are too young to deliver, failing to know that it is not the age that matters, it is the services that you discharge to transform the trajectory from bad to good or for the betterment of this nation. You too are going to be labeled the same way, even Mr Speaker was given the same description but we do not care; what we focus on as Sierra Leoneans is that our similarities are far greater than our differences. We live to celebrate the good things that we do, and pay less attention to the pelting of all negative adjectives against

us. We stand tall in this nation, and the generation yet to come will talk about us one day, Mr Speaker.

We will continue to stand for transformation, progressive laws, and we will allow making amendment where necessary. That is what we are going to do under the Sixth Parliament of Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if I am to continue pointing out the facts regarding what we do I will go on and on for the rest of the day. There is a common saying, '*illegal act cannot create a law*'.

Mr Speaker let me make confession to you. Anytime we are lambasted for doing what they do not understand, that is the time I get a new spirit for my divine intervention from God, because I am a Catholic Christian. Sometime when they bash me, when I come as a Knight in a Chamber, that is the time I have spiritual feelings to give my ways out. But Mr Speaker before I take my seat, people come to us every day; even these Nominees sitting here are going to leave the people that came to support them with us, and we have to give transport; we have to encourage them to take whatever means of transportation to go home, that is our job; we are the people's representatives. We are set; if we have we can give, and if we do not have, we would give words of courage. Mr Speaker this is the people's Home, so we encourage the Nominees to help this nation to change, and help this nation to grow.

As the Honourable Paramount Chief said, we have over 7 million people in the country, and President Bio in his wisdom as our audacity of hope, and the vanguard of the celebration of Sierra Leone, decided to nominate you for these positions means you should do your best to succeed. Your nomination is not because you have the best resumes, but because of the feelings and faith of the President as a Catholic Christian

So let me now read Section 61 of the Constitution before I take my seat. For me, I always want you to adhere to the rule of law, and not how you feel about me, but how do you uphold the rule of law so that you can also help in transforming this nation. Mr Speaker let me read section 61 deliberately so that those in the Gallery will know that when your family member is removed from a position of trust, celebrate president Bio instead of bashing at him because he had in the first place given that family member the opportunity to serve at the highest peak in the nation. Today we are celebrating in the Gallery, beating drums all over the place. But know that as it pleases the President, he has appointed, and as it pleases the President he can use Section 61 to dismiss. Mr Speaker, permit me now to read Section 61,

Act No. 6 of the 1991 Constitution. *'Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and of any Act of Parliament, the President may constitute offices for Sierra Leone and make appointment to any such office and terminate any such appointment'*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, that is the power given to the President. The reason why I have read this portion is that we have several people who have served in their positions for over 5 years even though we have other Sierra Leoneans who deserve to be in those offices. This shows that if you perform well, **S.O 2** *'e lef to the president for continue for gee you appointment'*. When we were at Fourah Bah College, those who satisfied the Lecturers are given passes and those who do not are given carry forward.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me now come to those who assume offices and end up personalizing those Offices, and can even affront their bosses. Mr Speaker it is good for the Appointees to understand section 62 of the Constitution because it is not Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma that is telling them to do the right thing; I did not hire them, and I am not also trying to embarrass my Committee Members.

Suspension of S.O 5 [2]

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, as we have heard, there is an Innovator in this process of approval today. Let the Nominees go and read; we have Lawyers, we have Paramount Chiefs. But let me tell you, irrespective of how you behave to them, irrespective of what nomenclature you give them; whether positive or negative, like I always said, it is not easy to bring a good man down. That is what we carry as people who take mantle of office to discharge their duties responsibly. So in the line with your duty as enshrined in Section 62 of the 1991 Constitution, **Act No. 6**, let me read;

'where any Minister has been charged with the responsibility for any Department of Government, he shall exercise general direction and control over that Department, and subject to such direction and control, the Department shall be under the supervision of a Permanent Secretary whose Office shall be public Office'.

Mr Speaker we do not need a Judge to interpret that provision. You know the Minister has an overwhelming control of his or her Ministry. They are pointing to the fact that the Minister has a direct role, whilst the Permanent Secretary is just the Administrative body between the Minister and the other sectors within the Ministry.

Like for the Ambassadors and High Commissioners, their boss is the Foreign Minister, and there are rules governing them. You cannot say because you are having direct contact with the President or because you are bringing in Investors to this country you cannot seek permission from the Foreign Minister when you want to do your job or come to Freetown; protocols must be observed.

Mr Speaker, it is good to highlight some of these things as enshrined in the Constitution. As I have said, I have not singled out anybody but I have given them overwhelming praises so that they can understand where they are coming from and where they are going. Some of you are going to land on good and soft spot, but some of you are going to find it very difficult to understand. For those who have been given upwards and downwards decisions, praise be to God, I admire some of them who are courageous enough to take these positions because they want to serve Sierra Leone. I thank my Honourable Colleagues very much for your numerous contributions; thank you my Paramount Chiefs for making your contributions at the apex of this approval. So, colleagues Members of the Opposition, all what you have said shall be taken in good fate. To those who have given philosophical statements, let it be that way, and let those who have the thought to deduce the logical statement coming from my colleagues, so shall it be; when you give something, expect something in return.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Fourth Report reflects the unanimous view of the Committee. I therefore move that this Honourable House hereby approve the Presidential Nominees presented today, thank you very much may the Lord bless us all.

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

[Questions Proposed, Put and Agreed To.]

[The Motion of the Committee of Appointment and the Public Service has been approved].

THE SPEAKER: Nominees, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on your approval by the House of Parliament. Before you go, let me sound a note of caution: The Offices you are going to were once occupied by Sierra Leoneans, and I do not want to mince my words; when you go to these Offices, you are going to meet members of your staff who would be resistant to change. Sierra Leoneans once upon a time occupied these Offices, but this nation has been going in circles; every year we make Budget Allocations but nothing much has changed. It is my plea that when you go to your Offices, do something different. We have existed as an Independent nation for over 60 years and there is not much to account. It is my

plea to you, in as much as I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you, when you go to your Offices, please, for God and country, do something different, thank you very much.

Honourable Members, I am going to stand this House down for one hour to allow Members of Parliament to refresh and to allow the Leader of Government Business to do his job. So this House is stood down for exactly one hour.

[The House rose at 3:10pm and resumed at 6:00pm]

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

THE BILL ENTITLED THE APPROPRIATION ACT 2025

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

[The House Resolved into Committee of Supply]

GROUP 6

VOTE HEADS

11004,1105,11006,12401,12402,12403,13201, 30301,32001,40201,40502,41101,10701 and 10701, to stand part of the schedule.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE *[Madam Kadiatu Allie]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable members, I move that the following votes stand as part of the schedule,

| MDAs ACCOUNTS HEADS [INCLUDING SUB-HEADS] FOR 2025 FY | | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| No | Vote | Division | Vote Description | Total Sum Voted [Nle] |
| 1. | 110 | 04 | Anti-Corruption Commission | 13,607,800 |
| 2. | 110 | 05 | Office of the Ombudsman | 3,526,900 |
| 3. | 110 | 06 | Independent Media Commission | 2,580,700 |
| 4. | 124 | 01 | Office of the Solicitor General | 17,879,600 |
| 5. | 124 | 02 | Administrator & Registrar General | 7,431,900 |

| | | | | |
|-----|---------|----|--|--------------------|
| 6. | 124 | 03 | Justice Sector Coordination Office | 3,263,300 |
| 7. | 132 | 01 | Accountant General's Department | 29,849,100 |
| 8. | 303 | 01 | Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs | 11,196,300 |
| 9. | 320 | 01 | National Sports Authority | 71,714,800 |
| 10. | 402 | 01 | Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources | 23,756,300 |
| 11. | 405 | 02 | Monuments and Relics Commission | 3,394,900 |
| 12. | 411 | 01 | Road Maintenance Fund Administration | 249,087,100 |
| 13. | 107 | 01 | Kailahun District Council | 17,171,316 |
| 14. | 107 | 01 | Western Area Rural District Council | 13,241,475 |
| 15. | Various | | Sierra Leone Road Authority | 107,564,000 |

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

HON. AMBROSE MAADA LEBBIE: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I hereby present the Report on Sub Appropriation Committee **No. 6** to the House.

1.0. PROCEDURE ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee diligently adhered to the relevant provisions of Section **93** and Section **112 [6]** of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, as well as Standing Order 66(1) of the Parliament of Sierra Leone.

The Appropriations Sub-Committee 6 thoroughly examined a total of fifteen [15] Votes and engaged in sessions with all Vote Controllers and accounting personnel. During these sessions, the Committee sought clarifications on specific issues arising from their submissions. Vote Controllers were also instructed to provide detailed breakdowns, justifications, and responses to concerns raised.

Moreover, the Committee was required to address other related matters concerning the draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for FY 2025.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, this report encompasses key observations and recommendations derived from these deliberations.

1.1. MANDATE

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

1) Examination of Budget Estimates:

Conduct a comprehensive review of the recurrent and capital budget estimates of

Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and provide recommendations for the general debate in the House.

2) *Evaluation of Expenditures:*

Assess whether budgetary allocations for the financial year 2024 were utilized efficiently and effectively.

3) *Assessment of Future Allocations:*

Scrutinize the 2025 budgetary allocations of MDAs to ensure consistency with their mandates and alignment with work plans presented to the Committee.

4) *Identification of Challenges:*

Highlight key challenges and constraints faced by the MDAs in the implementation of their programs and projects.

5) *Promotion of Transparency and Accountability:*

Enhance transparency and accountability in the management of public funds through detailed review and reporting processes.

1.2. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The composition of the Committee includes the following Members and Secretariat:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Chairman | Hon Ambrose Maada Lebby |
| Deputy Chairman | Hon Mohamed Fofanah Hon Musa Lahai |
| | Hon Mohamed Sheriff Kargbo Hon Rebecca Y Kamara |
| | Hon Aminata Sesay |
| | Hon. Pst. Fatmata Sarah Soukenah Hon Juliana Aliematu Fatorma |
| | Hon Tamba Simeon Johnny Hon P.CTamu Saffa Monya Hon P.CCyril Foray Gonder Hon Alice Jebbeh Kumabeh Hon. Bashiru Silikie |
| Supervisor | |

SECRETARIAT

Lead Clerk

Augustine Sesay

Deputy Lead Clerk

Victoria A. M Smith

Assistant Clerk

Sidiratu Deen Kuyateh

Budget officer

David Kabba Ninka

1.3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the Committee, I extend heartfelt gratitude to the Office of the Speaker and the Office of the Clerk for their invaluable guidance and crucial logistical assistance throughout this important undertaking. I also appreciate the active participation of representatives from the Executive branch of government in the proceedings.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, I commend the dedication and commitment of Committee Members, whose efforts were instrumental in the success of this process. I further acknowledge the Department of Committees for assigning Clerks to support our work and express gratitude to the Parliamentary Budget Office for its assistance in reviewing the Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2025.

Additionally, the Committee recognizes the members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery for their consistent coverage of the Committee's hearings.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, it is both an honor and a privilege, on behalf of the 2025 Budget Appropriations Sub-Committee 6, to present the findings and recommendations resulting from this exercise.

HON AMBROSE MAADA LEBBY

CHAIRMAN, APPROPRIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE 6

1.0. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, during the hearings, the Appropriations Sub-committee 6 diligently fulfilled its constitutional mandate while adhering to applicable legislative frameworks. This commitment facilitated the identification of key achievement, findings and observations as outlined below:

1.0.1. KEY ACHIEVEMENT

Review of MDAs Submission by the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO)

The Parliamentary Finance Committee, in collaboration with the Parliamentary Budget Office [PBO], adopted an internationally recognized best practice by distributing structured questionnaires to vote controllers of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies [MDAs], of which some responded. This proactive approach aligns with global parliamentary budget oversight standards that emphasize early data collection and stakeholder engagement.

The questionnaires were designed to extract relevant financial and operational

information critical for budget analysis. Upon receiving responses, PBO officials conducted a detailed analysis, generating comprehensive summary guides. These guides followed international norms of budget scrutiny by highlighting key financial indicators, performance metrics, and areas requiring further legislative inquiry.

The use of these summarized guides significantly enhanced the budget review process. Committee members were able to focus on high-priority issues and engage in evidence-based discussions, minimizing the need to navigate through extensive documentary submissions from MDAs. This method not only improved efficiency but also strengthened the Committee's budget oversight role, ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective public financial management in line with international best practices.

1.0.2. Key Challenges Identified:

1.0.2.1. Delayed Fund Disbursement:

Delayed fund disbursement continues to be a major challenge affecting MDAs in Sierra Leone. Subventions are often delayed, hindering the timely implementation of projects and programs. These delays disrupt project timelines, procurement processes, and overall service delivery to the public. Additionally, delays in fund disbursement can increase project costs due to inflation and other market fluctuations.

1.3.1.1. Inconsistent Funding Allocations:

Another significant issue is inconsistent funding. Some MDAs received allocations for only one or two quarters, leaving them underfunded for the remaining periods. This inconsistency disrupts strategic planning and long-term project execution. Incomplete funding cycles often result in stalled projects and unmet development goals, further exacerbating the nation's development challenges.

1.3.1.2. Late Submission of Documents:

The late submission of documents by MDAs has also emerged as a persistent problem. MDAs frequently submit questionnaires and supporting documents late, impeding the Committee's review process. Delays in submission limit the Committee's ability to conduct timely assessments and make well-informed decisions. Even when questionnaires were forwarded to MDAs for completion and submission to Parliament for the Parliamentary Budget Office's analysis, many delayed submission until the day of the hearings. These repeated occurrences undermine accountability and transparency in the use of public funds.

1.3.1.3. Disorganized and Voluminous Documentation:

Moreover, disorganized and voluminous documents complicate the review process for Members of Parliament and supporting staff. Submitted documents are often excessively large and poorly organized, making it challenging to review and analyze critical information. The lack of standardized document formats further complicates the process, making it difficult to compare data across different MDAs.

1.3.2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1.3.2.1. Ensure Timely Fund Disbursement:

To address these challenges, the government should ensure timely fund disbursement to MDAs. Establishing a clear disbursement calendar and enforcing compliance can help reduce delays. Implementing automated financial management systems can also streamline fund transfers and enhance transparency.

1.3.2.2. Mandate Timely Document Submission:

MDAs should be mandated to submit relevant documents and questionnaires on time to support effective parliamentary oversight. Introducing penalties for late submissions could encourage timely compliance. Additionally, developing a digital submission platform would facilitate efficient and time-stamped document submissions.

1.0.1.1. Improve Document Organization and Presentation:

Improving the organization and presentation of documents is critical. MDAs should present documents in a simplified and organized manner to enhance clarity and facilitate efficient review. Creating standardized templates for common reports and questionnaires, coupled with periodic reviews, can help refine reporting formats.

1.0.1.2. Implement Capacity-Building Initiatives:

Capacity-building initiatives are essential to strengthen MDAs' financial management and reporting capabilities. Training programs on budget management, procurement processes, and compliance with financial regulations should be regularly conducted. Collaboration with development partners for technical assistance and expert-led training sessions can also enhance institutional capacity.

1.6.3.5. Ensure Consistent Quarterly Funding Allocations:

Lastly, the government should ensure that MDAs receive quarterly funding allocations consistently to enable uninterrupted project implementation. Developing performance-based funding models to reward MDAs demonstrating effective financial management would further incentivize good practices. Establishing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework would allow the tracking of fund utilization and project progress.

By addressing these challenges and implementing the recommended measures, the

Committee on Appropriation aims to improve the financial management and operational efficiency of MDAs in Sierra Leone.

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SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2.0. INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, this section of the report highlights key issues identified by the Committee, along with corresponding recommendations. The analysis covers both budgetary and policy matters and is organized by vote for clarity and coherence.

2.1. Vote [110 04] Anti-Corruption Commission

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

Revenue Generation

The Deputy Commissioner, representing the Vote Controller, appeared before the Committee to provide an overview of the Commission's financial performance concerning revenue generation. While emphasizing that the Commission is not classified as a revenue-generating institution, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted funds recovered from corrupt practices during the 4th quarter of the 2023 financial year and the January-September period of the 2024 financial year.

The total amount recovered during the specified periods includes Le 403,252 for the 4th quarter of the 2023 financial year and Le 5,899,654 for the January-September period of the 2024 financial year. The total amount transferred to the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) was Le 10,000,000. Pursuant to Section 139 of the Anti-Corruption Act 2008 (as amended in 2019), the Commission is authorized to retain 10% of all debts recovered in civil proceedings. This portion supplements the Commission's operational budget, while the remaining 90% is transferred to the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF).

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Committee commends the Commission efforts in anti-corruption recovery, and recommends continued compliance with Anti-Corruption Act provisions, strengthening recovery mechanisms, and enhancing transparency in financial operations.

2024 FY Budget Performance Review

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) submitted an initial budget request of **Le 89,210,054** for the 2024 financial year, covering staff salaries and allowances, recurrent expenditure, and capital development. However, the Ministry of Finance approved a reduced budget of **Le 73,122,400**, which included **Le 58,006,000** for staff salaries and allowances, **Le 12,116,400** for recurrent expenditure, and **Le 3,000,000** for capital/development projects.

At the time of reporting, the amount allocated to the ACC by the Ministry of Finance stood at **Le 47,594,591**, reflecting a significant shortfall in funding. Total revenue receipts for the period under review amounted to **Le 53,549,686**, comprising the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) regular budget, funds recovered through anti- corruption efforts, and interest earned from bank accounts. The Committee also noted additional donor

contributions, including **Le 971,386** from UNICEF and OSIWA, and **US\$ 588,536** from the World Bank utilized mainly on system reviews for MDAs monitoring and capacity building programs.

By September 30, 2024, the ACC had **expended NLe 59,679,528.00**, which included funds carried over from 2023 for ongoing projects and essential activities. These expenditures enabled the Commission to undertake key initiatives such as:

- *Completion and Launch of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy {NACS} 2024-2028:* Establishing a forward-looking framework to strengthen anti-corruption efforts.
- **Coordination and Monitoring of NACS Implementation:** Ensuring consistent follow-up on strategic anti-corruption goals.
- *Systems Reviews of Three Ministries, Departments, and Agencies {MDAs}:* Conducting in-depth reviews to identify systemic weaknesses.
- **Administrative and Operational Expenses:** Covering essential costs to sustain Commission operations.
- *Monitoring Implementation of Systems Review Recommendations:* Tracking and evaluating the progress of recommended reforms.
- **Completion of Investigations:** Successfully investigating at least 50% of reported corruption cases in 2024.

Outlook for 2025

The Commission submitted an original budget request of **Le 104,729,536** for the 2025 financial year, which included allocations for staff salaries and allowances, recurrent expenditure, and capital development. The breakdown of the original submission was **Le 64,648,045** for staff salaries and allowances, **Le 20,000,000** for recurrent expenditure, and **Le 20,081,491** for capital/development projects. However, the Ministry of Finance approved only **Le 13,607,800**, a significant reduction from the original submission. The Commission anticipates significant challenges due to the reduced budget allocation for 2025. Key concerns include inadequate financial resources and limited staff capacity, which may impede the effective execution of its mandate. The Committee underscored Parliament's vital role as the first line of accountability to citizens and reaffirmed its unwavering support for the ACC's mission, recognizing its essential role in promoting good governance and public sector integrity.

Recommendations

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, to address the identified challenges, the Committee underscores the importance of ensuring the timely disbursement of funds to the Commission to facilitate the effective implementation of its approved programs. Based on its review of the Commission budget submission and expenditure, the Committee recommends approval of the sum of Le 13,607,800.00

for the FY 2025. The Committee highlights the need for sustained financial discipline and operational efficiency to enable the Commission to fulfil its mandate effectively within the approved budgetary framework.

2.2. VOTE [110 05] OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

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

2024 FY Budget Performance Review

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2024 financial year, the Office of the Ombudsman submitted a budget of Nle 4,073.77. However, the Ministry of Finance allocated Nle 3,024.00. As of September 30, 2024, the actual amount received was Nle 2,386,223, comprising the GoSL Regular budget, GoSL Supplementary budget, and grants. Total expenditures amounted to Nle 1,749,087.00, covering administrative costs, website maintenance, formal dialogue establishment, and public complaint adjudication.

In response to concerns about budget shortfalls, the Vote Controller noted that the reduction in the GoSL Regular budget significantly impacted the following critical areas:

- **Public Complaint Adjudication:** Reduced capacity to handle public complaints, intake clinics, communications, and public relations activities.
- **Awareness Programme Suspension:** Suspension of the awareness-raising programme on sextortion.
- **Follow-up Visits:** Canceled follow-up visits after intake clinics.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recognizes the budget reduction's negative impact on the Ombudsman's operations. Additionally, the Committee observed that only eight female staff, representing 21% of the agency's total workforce, are currently employed. The Committee advises that the Office recruit more female staff in line with the GEWA Act and the President's gender equality agenda.

Outlook for 2025

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2025 financial year, the Office of the Ombudsman submitted a budget of Nle 9,370,000.00. The Ministry of Finance approved a reduced budget of Nle 3,526,900.00 under the GoSL Regular budget.

The Vote Controller informed the Committee that if the full amount is allocated, the agency intends to:

- **Awareness Programme Relaunch:** Launch the second comprehensive awareness-raising programme on sextortion.
- **Field Mediation and Investigations:** Significantly increase field mediation and

- investigations.
- **Follow-up Visits:** Conduct well-planned follow-up visits after intake clinics.

Recommendation

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends the Ministry of Finance to allocate the approved 2025 budget to the Office of the Ombudsman, considering its critical role in serving citizens in both public and private sectors. The Committee recommends approval of the NLe 3,526,900.00 budget by the Committee of the Whole House.

2.3. VOTE [110 06] INDEPENDENT MEDIA COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Independent Media Commission (IMC) of Sierra Leone, established by the Independent Media Commission Act of 2000 and subsequently amended, serves as an autonomous body responsible for regulating mass media institutions within the country. The IMC's primary objectives include promoting professionalism, ensuring efficiency in media services, fostering fair competition among media entities, protecting journalists' interests, and safeguarding the public from media exploitation or abuse.

The Commission's mandate encompasses enforcing compliance with media regulations, advising the Minister on media policy formulation, maintaining a register of media institutions, and establishing licensing categories for electronic media.

2024 Financial Year Budget Performance Review

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2024 financial year, the IMC submitted a budget proposal of NLe 3,955,380 but received an allocation of only NLe 1,941,400. As of September 30, 2024, the Commission had received NLe 2,737,491.60. This reduction significantly affected several key operational areas:

- **Media Monitoring:** Insufficient funds delayed the procurement of media monitoring software and equipment essential for overseeing radio and television broadcasts.
- **Training Programs:** Budget cuts reduced training sessions for journalists and media stakeholders on the IMC Act, 2020, and related media regulations.
- **Media Resource Centres:** Plans to establish effective media resource centres across the country were curtailed.
- **Staff Development:** Staff training and media practice seminars were reduced, impacting operational efficiency.
- **Regional Expansion:** Establishing a new regional office in the North-West was

postponed.

- **ICT Procurement:** Limited procurement of ICT equipment hindered operational effectiveness.

Despite these financial constraints, the Commission generated Nle 796,091.60 in own-source revenue, surpassing its projected target of Nle 600,000. This increase was attributed to institutions registering as new entities after failing to renew their licenses on time.

As of the latest report, total expenditure stood at Nle 2,732,147.76, with major expenses covering administrative costs, public complaint hearings, media monitoring, and promoting the revised IMC Act and regulations.

Recommendations

Given the financial challenges faced by the Commission, the Committee recommends the following measures:

1. **Increased Government Subventions:** The Ministry of Finance should consider supplementary budget support while exploring partnerships with international donor agencies.
2. **Legislative Amendments:** Collaborate with Parliament to amend the IMC Act to include online media regulation to address emerging digital challenges.
3. **Capacity Building:** Enhance staff capacity through training on emerging media trends and best practices.
4. **Inter-Agency Collaboration:** Build strong partnerships with national and international media regulatory bodies.
5. **Logistics Support:** Provide more vehicles and motorcycles to strengthen the Commission's outreach activities.
6. **Professional Recruitment:** Hire district-level media monitors and digital media professionals.

2025 Financial Year Outlook

For the 2025 financial year, the Commission submitted a budget of **Nle 4,566,980** but was allocated only **Nle 2,580,700**. The projected revenue target for the year is set at **Nle 1,000,000**. The reduced budget will significantly impact the following critical areas:

- **Journalist and Media Stakeholder Training:** Essential workshops and seminars will be limited.
- **Media Monitoring Tools:** Delays in purchasing software and equipment will continue.
- **Regional Expansion:** Plans to establish new offices in the North-West region will be postponed.

- **Staff Development:** Fewer training programs and seminars will affect operational efficiency.
- **Media Resource Centres:** Development of media resource hubs across the country will be stalled.
- **JCT Equipment Procurement:** Inadequate ICT infrastructure will hinder operational effectiveness.

Recommendation

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, acknowledging the IMC's critical role in upholding media standards and regulating political coverage, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance ensures adequate financial support to address staff motivation and reduce turnover. The Committee further recommends an increase in salaries for IMC staff. The Committee recommends approving the NLe 2,580,700 allocation for the 2025 financial year, with provisions for additional funding as needed to enhance operational efficiency and staff retention.

2.4. Vote [124 01] OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Office of the Solicitor General in Sierra Leone functions as the principal legal advisor to the government, operating under the Ministry of Justice. The Solicitor General serves as the primary assistant to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, overseeing all civil and criminal proceedings on behalf of the state. The Solicitor General plays a crucial role in ensuring that the government's legal affairs are managed effectively, upholding the rule of law, and protecting citizens' rights. The office collaborates with various legal and justice sector institutions, including the Legal Aid Board, Sierra Leone Law School, Law Reform Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission, Ombudsman, Administrator General, and the Human Rights Commission, all supervised by the Ministry of Justice.

2024 Financial Year Budget Performance Review

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2024 financial year, Parliament approved a budget of **Le 17,879,600.00**. The Committee observed that there was a reduction of **22.12%** from the Solicitor General's original budget submission of **Le 22,958,000.00**. Revenue receipts for the year under review, representing the GoSL regular budget, amounted to **Le 11,086,997.11**, while **Le 10,970,987.11** has been expended to date. According to the Vote Controller, the budget reduction has adversely affected key operational areas, including:

- Witness Management
- Administrative Operations
- Drafting and Reviewing Legislation
- Development of a Concept Note for the Constitutional Review

- Legal Representation
- Human Capital Development

*The Committee noted that these budgetary constraints have significantly hindered the Solicitor General's office in effectively carrying out its mandate and delivering critical **legal services**.*

2025 Financial Year Outlook

For the 2025 financial year, the Ministry of Finance advised a budget ceiling of **Le 20,000,000** for the Office of the Solicitor General. However, the Office submitted a budget request of **Le 44,149,700**, reflecting the growing financial demands required to fulfill its mandate. Despite this, the approved allocation for FY 2025 stands at **Le 17,879,600**, which falls short of both the ceiling and the submitted request.

The Office of the Solicitor General emphasized that any further delays or reductions in the budget would critically impact key operational areas, including:

- Administrative Operations
- Witness Management
- Review of Key Legislation, such as the Law Officers' Act
- Rental and Maintenance of State Counsel provincial offices and lodging

The Committee underscores the importance of addressing these funding gaps to ensure that the Office of the Solicitor General can meet its obligations, including legislative review, witness support, and the maintenance of critical legal infrastructure.

Recommendation

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance ensure the timely and full disbursement of the NLe17, 879,600 allocated budgets to enable the Office of the Solicitor General to effectively perform its critical functions and address funding challenges without delay.

Vote [124 02] THE ADMINISTRATOR & REGISTRAR GENERAL

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

2024 Financial Year Budget Performance Review

The Office of the Administrator and Registrar General (OARG) surpassed its 2024 revenue target of NLe 4,125,000.00, generating NLe 4,854,200.20, a surplus of NLe 729,200.20. This

success was driven by increased economic activity, higher service demand, and effective revenue strategies, including Tax Identification Number (TIN) issuance, trademark and legal instrument registrations, marriage registrations, and expanded outreach.

As of 1st October 2023, the OARG Imprest Account had a balance of Nle 249,615.90, rising to NLe 311,978.02 by 31 September 2024, reflecting sound financial management.

The Ministry of Finance approved a budget ceiling of NLe 5,439,000.00, though the actual allocation reached NLe 6,689,600.00 due to operational priorities. The office received NLe 3,344,400.00 from the GoSL regular budget, fully expended by the reporting date, contributing significantly to its operational success.

2025 Financial Year Outlook

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) advised a budget ceiling of Nle 8,144,000.00 for the OARG for the 2025 financial year. The office aligned its submission with this ceiling. However, the actual budget allocated to the OARG stands at **Nle 7,431,900.00**, reflecting a shortfall of Nle 712,100.00.

The reduced budget allocation may affect the OARG's ability to implement its planned programs and meet service delivery targets. Critical operational areas such as registration services, legal documentation processing, and outreach to underserved regions could face resource constraints.

Recommendation

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Committee has assessed the allocation to the Office of the Administrator and Registrar General as adequate and, therefore, recommends its approval.

2.0. Vote [124 03) JUSTICE SECTOR COORDINATION OFFICE

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

human rights, promotes transparency, and contributes to sustainable development.

2024 Financial Year Budget Performance Review

The opening cash and bank balances for the Justice Sector Coordination Office for the Financial Years 2023 and 2024 indicate a significant decline. As of 1st October 2023, the total opening balance stood at **381,850.08**, with **396,377.38** held in the Rokel Commercial Bank account and a negative balance of **(14,527.30)** in the Bank of Sierra Leone account. However, by 31st September 2024, the total opening balance had dropped to 21,265.59, consisting of 22,259.59 in the Rokel Commercial Bank account and a reduced negative balance of (994) in the Bank of Sierra Leone account. This notable reduction highlights a significant decrease in the financial reserves of the office over the fiscal period.

The **Original Budget** submitted to the Ministry of Finance was **Le2, 623,795.00**, which was subsequently approved. The **Amount Allocated** to the MDA was **Le2, 800,000.00**, while the **Actual Receipt** totalled **Le2, 928,455.00**. This includes **Le1, 468,400** from the GoSL regular budget and **Le1, 460,055.00** in donations/grants/loans, primarily from **UNICEF** and **UNDP** for the **Child Justice Project** and the **Review of the Criminal Procedure Act Project** and the **Justice Sector Strategy**. From its GoSL regular budget, the Office reported an expenditure of **Le1, 878,487.19**, primarily on administrative costs, support to **Sierralii**, and coordination of Justice Sector Institutions, including communications and M&E.

2025 Financial Year Outlook

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, for the 2025 Financial Year, the Justice Sector Coordination Office submitted a budget of **Nle 3,719,670.00**, in line with the ceiling advised by the MoF. However, the Ministry of Finance approved **Nle 3,263,300.00** for its activities.

Recommendation

The Committee considers this a/location adequate and recommends its approval

2.0. VOTE [132 01] ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

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

2024 Financial Year Budget Performance Review

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, as of 1/10/2023, the Imprest Account for the Accountant General's Department had a balance of **Nle 578,000**, which increased to **Nle 4,121,000** as of 31/09/2024.

For the 2024 Financial Year, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) advised and approved a Budget Ceiling of **Nle 39,849,000** for the Accountant General's Department (AGD), despite the Original Budget Submitted being **Nle 50,894,000**. This reduction hindered the expansion of Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) services to other MDAs. Additionally, inadequate staffing was reported as a critical challenge, affecting the execution of key deliverables and overall institutional performance. As of the reporting date, the Department received **Nle 38,379,000** from its GoSL regular budget, with actual expenditure recorded at **Nle 29,759,000**. Approved deliverables include the deployment of Accounting Staff in various MDAs to support and advise Vote Controllers on Financial Policies, the development of a Quality Accounting Class within the Public Service, the provision of professional and technical support to MoF and GoSL on accounting matters, and the implementation of the IFMIS strategy.

2025 financial Year Outlook

For the 2025 Financial Year, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) advised a Budget Ceiling of **Nle 43,030,000**, while the Original Budget Submitted was **Nle 48,279,000**. However, the Budget Approved and Amount Allocated stood at **Nle 29,849,100**, significantly lower than the submitted budget.

Recommendation

To address the budget shortfall, it is recommended that a provision for a supplementary budget be considered during the course of the year. This would help cover critical funding gaps, ensuring the continuity of essential programs, expansion of EFT services, and recruitment of additional staff to strengthen institutional performance.

2.0. **Vote [303 01] MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (MTCA) in Sierra Leone is dedicated to promoting sustainable tourism as a catalyst for economic growth and socio-cultural empowerment. Its mission is to create an enabling environment for tourism to thrive by adopting appropriate policies, legislation, and regulations in collaboration with key stakeholders, thereby attracting vital investment to fully benefit from tourism development

2024 Financial Year Budget Performance Review

For the **2024 Financial Year**, the **GoSL Regular Budget** provided a total of **Nle 5,935,200**, distributed as **Nle 2,125,400** in Q1, **Nle 2,125,400** in Q2, and **Nle 1,684,400** in Q3. There were no receipts recorded under the **GoSL Supplementary Budget** or from **Donations, Grants, or Loans**, indicating limited additional financial support. Total expenditure from the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) regular budget amounted to Nle 3,537,300, primarily covering capacity building, refurbishment of the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs building, surveys, awareness-raising workshops, and hosting of the Budapest-Bamako Freetown Rally.

2025 Financial Year Outlook

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, for the 2025 Financial Year, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) recommended a budget ceiling of **Nle 13,775.80**. However, the approved budget amounted to **Nle 11,196.30**, which has been allocated for the financial year. The initial budget submission was **Nle 14,854.20**, resulting in a shortfall of **Nle 3,657.90** compared to the proposed amount.

Recommendation

Hence, the Committee recommends approval of the Nle 11,196,700 allocation for the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs for the 2025 financial year.

VOTE [320 01] NATIONAL SPORTS AUTHORITY

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the National Sports Authority (NSA) of Sierra Leone, established by the National Sports Authority Act of 2018, serves as the principal government agency responsible for the promotion, development, and regulation of sports nationwide. The NSA's strategic focus includes the development of sports infrastructure, talent identification, and fostering partnerships to enhance the country's sports profile. Recent initiatives involve facilitating the construction of modern indoor basketball courts and supporting the establishment of the Africa Traditional Games and Sports Federation's secretariat in Sierra Leone, underscoring the Authority's dedication to both contemporary and traditional sports.

2024 Financial Year Budget Performance Review

The National Sports Authority (NSA) submitted a budget proposal of Nle 324,136,680.00. However, the approved allocation for parliamentary approval was **Nle99, 070,300.00**. By September 30, 2024, the NSA received **Nle 98,683,014.66** from the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL). As of the same date, the NSA expended Nle 79,353,274.49 on various activities, including general administration, sports development programs, and the National Institute of Sport.

When questioned about the absence of donor funding, the Executive Director explained that most funding comes from the GoSL, as each sporting discipline has its governing body, which the NSA supports. The Committee expressed concern over the government's significant investment in sports, particularly football, given the national team's poor performance in the recent African Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers. The Executive Director attributed the poor performance to financial constraints, revealing that while they budgeted NLe 323,000,000.00 for the qualifiers, the MoF reduced the amount to Nle 60,000,000.00, severely affecting preparations. Consequently, the NSA aims to prioritize grassroots sports development in the 2025 budget.

Outlook for 2025

For the 2025 financial year, the NSA submitted a proposed budget of Nle 324,136,680.00, and has been allocated with **Nle71, 714,800** as GoSL regular budget. In response, the NSA outlined strategic initiatives, including:

- 0 Plans to bid for artificial turf in Denmark, aiming to build two artificial turfs annually, totaling six within three years.
- Highlighting football's socio-economic impact, noting that successful footballers often contribute to community development by building schools, hospitals, and housing.
- Seeking parliamentary approval for establishing a Football Basket Fund.
- Emphasizing its role in generating immediate employment opportunities and calling on Members of Parliament to prioritize sports development alongside other key sectors.

Recommendations

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee acknowledged the NSA's budgetary challenges but urged the NSA to improve its football programs to

identify investments into other sports activities, and therefore recommends its approval.

2.0. VOTE [40201] MINISTRY OF FISHERIES & MARINE RESOURCES

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) in Sierra Leone is tasked with the management, development, and conservation of the nation's fisheries resources, encompassing marine, inland, and aquaculture sectors. The fishing industry in Sierra Leone is characterized by both industrial and artisanal operations, with the latter playing a significant role in local economies and food security.

2024 Financial Year Budget Performance Review

For the 2024 financial year, the Ministry of Fisheries submitted a budget proposal of NLe 29,431,000.00, which was approved by the Ministry of Finance. During the year, the Ministry received NLe 23,756,300.00 from the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and spent NLe 15,750,505.00 as of September 30, 2024. Key expenditure areas included administrative costs, marine artisanal fisheries development, statistical research and policy, aquaculture and inland fisheries, as well as monitoring, control, and surveillance activities.

Challenges Faced several challenges were highlighted during budget hearings:

- The Ministry lacked roadworthy vehicles needed for monitoring and supervising fisheries programs, inspecting fishing vessels, and ensuring compliance with export regulations.
- 11 There were insufficient staff members to collect license fees from artisanal fishermen along the coast and conduct community sensitization on sustainable fisheries management.
- The Ministry faced late and inadequate disbursement of funds, affecting its ability to implement annual programs effectively.

The Ministry's revenue sources include the GoSL regular budget, licenses and royalties from industrial and semi-industrial fishing vessels, processing plant licenses, artisanal fishing licenses, import/export fees, and local discharge fees. Despite a revenue target of NLe 95,000,000.00 for FY 2024, the Ministry generated NLe 87,929,543.47. The shortfall was attributed to increased license fees, which caused some fishing companies to reduce or cease operations.

2025 Revenue Projections and Focus Areas Looking ahead, the Ministry projects revenues of NLe 150,000,000.00 for FY 2025. The Vote Controller assured the Committee that the 2025 budget will prioritize:

- **Enhanced Monitoring and Surveillance:** Strengthening inland and offshore monitoring to combat illegal and unregulated fishing.
- **National Aquaculture Program:** Expanding inland fish production through improved aquaculture practices.

- **Data Collection and Analysis:** Enhancing data-driven decision-making for better fisheries management.
- **Fish Quality Inspection:** Boosting fish quality inspections to increase exports and improve local fish sales.

2025 Financial Year Outlook

The Ministry submitted a proposed budget of Nle29, 431,000.00 for FY 2025, which was approved by the Ministry of Finance for parliamentary consideration. ***The Committee recommends the Ministry to increase revenue generation, emphasizing that fisheries should contribute significantly to Sierra Leone's economy. Additionally, the Ministry of Finance was advised to increase budget allocations to facilitate the purchase of vehicles and essential equipment for effective operations.***

Recommendation

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Committee considers the proposed allocation of NLe 23,756,300.00 inadequate given the Ministry's critical role in revenue generation and national Food security. It therefore recommends a supplementary budget to support the Ministry's operational needs and enhance service delivery in FY2025.

VOTE [405 02] MONUMENTS AND RELICS COMMISSION

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, the Monuments and Relics Commission (MRC) of Sierra Leone, established in 1948 following the enactment of the Monuments and Relics Ordinance in 1946, is the principal government agency responsible for the preservation, protection, and promotion of the nation's cultural heritage. The MRC's mandate includes identifying, proclaiming, and safeguarding sites and objects of archaeological, ethnographical, historical, or scientific significance. This encompasses a wide range of heritage assets, such as ancient buildings, ruins, stone circles, graves, caves, rock shelters, and other culturally important sites.

2024 FY Budget Performance Review

For the 2024 financial year, the Commission submitted a budget of NLe 5,911,800.00. However, the Ministry of Finance allocated a reduced amount of NLe 3,000,000.00. As of September 30, 2024, the Commission received Nle 1,205,919.00. The Vote Controller reported that this reduction severely affected critical areas such as:

- **Facility Rehabilitation:** Inadequate infrastructure hampers tourism development.
- **Operational Support:** Limited funds constrained the Commission's operational efficiency.
- **Staff Salaries:** Delays in salary payments led to decreased staff motivation.
- **Mobility Constraints:** Reduced mobility hindered revenue generation and service delivery.

Despite these challenges, the Commission generated **NLe 22,700.00** as own-source revenue, significantly below the projected target of **NLe 50,000.00** from January to September 2024. The shortfall is attributed to:

- **November 26, 2023 Incident:** This event reduced the influx of visitors to Sierra Leone.
- **Global Economic Impact:** The Ukraine war's global economic consequences discouraged potential tourists.

Looking ahead, the Commission expects over 400 African Americans, who have traced their ancestry to Sierra Leone through DNA testing, to visit key historical sites such as Bunce Island and the National Museum.

As of September 2024, the Commission expended **NLe 1,205,919.00** on essential areas, including local and foreign travel, administrative costs, and operational expenses.

Recommendations:

Given the financial constraints faced by the Commission, the Committee recommends the following actions:

- **Increase Foreign Visitation Fee:** Raise the fee from \$10 to at least **\$20** or **\$30** to better reflect the value of historical sites.
- **Approve Site Maintenance:** The Government of Sierra Leone should authorize annual maintenance for at least one historical site.
- **Recruit Tour Guides:** Hire professional tour guides to enhance the visitor experience and boost inbound tourism.

Outlook for 2025

For the 2025 financial year, the Commission submitted a proposed budget of **NLe 5,896,000.00** but received an approved allocation of **NLe 5,318,700.00**. The projected revenue target for 2025 is set at **NLe 50,000.00**. According to the Vote Controller, this budget will play a crucial role in supporting key operational priorities, including:

- **Cultural Heritage Site Management:** Ensuring the maintenance, preservation, and enhancement of historical and cultural landmarks.
 - **Promotion of Sustainable Cultural Tourism:** Expanding tourism initiatives to increase international and local tourist engagement.
 - **Recruitment of Professional Tour Guides:** Strengthening visitor experience through the hiring of skilled tour guides.
-
- **Sensitization Campaigns:** Conducting comprehensive local and international Outreach programs to showcase Sierra Leone's rich cultural heritage and attract more tourists.

Recommendation:

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee emphasizes the strategic importance of the Monuments and Relics Commission in fostering economic growth through cultural heritage management. Adequate financial support is imperative for the Commission to fulfill its mandate effectively. Consequently, the Committee recommends the approval of the allocated

Budget of NLe 3,394,900.00 for the Monuments and Relics Commission for the 2025 financial year.

2.5. VOTE [411 01] ROAD MAINTENANCE FUND ADMINISTRATION

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

2024 Fiscal Year Budget Performance Review

For the 2024 fiscal year, the RMFA submitted a budget of NLe 198,500,000.00, approved by the Ministry of Finance. The Administration received NLe 152,756,435.59 from the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) and expended NLe 131,283,760.62 as of 30th September 2024. The remaining balance of NLe 21,472,675.00 is retained in the bank for ongoing projects.

Challenges Identified During Budget Hearings:

- Incomplete vehicle registration and license fee data from the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority (SLRSA).
- <>Declining fuel sales by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).
- Reduced subsidies and limited compliance by OMCs in fulfilling financial obligations to GoSL.

To address challenges from budget hearings, the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority (SLRSAJ) should upgrade its data management system, collaborate with enforcement agencies, and conduct regular audits to ensure accurate vehicle registration records. To improve OMCs' compliance with financial obligations, third-party audits should be implemented. These measures will enhance data accuracy, market stability, and financial accountability.

Revenue Sources and Performance: RMFA's revenue streams include road user charges, vehicle registration and licensing fees, interest income, and utility company payments. Despite a revenue line with its revenue projection a target of **NLe 198,000,000.00** for FY 2024, only **NLe 152,000,000.00** was generated. The shortfall was attributed to global disruptions such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict, reduced fuel sales, and APP SL's failure to remit deducted Road User Charges (RUC).

Projections for FY 2025: RMFA submitted a proposed budget of **Nle249, 087,100.00** in line with its projected revenue for FY 2025. The Chief Executive Officer assured the Committee that strategic measures have been implemented to meet this target.

Committee Recommendation

Mr- Chairman and Hon. Members, the Committee recommends RMFA to:

- ***Prioritize the maintenance of trunk roads nationwide.***
- ***Collaborate with the Ministry of Works, local councils, and relevant authorities to support street sweeping initiatives.***
- ***Strengthen oversight of maintenance activities across all 22 local councils, focusing on road repairs, collapsed culverts, and flood mitigation efforts.***

The Committee considers the proposed budget of Nle249, 087, 100.00 adequate for RMFA's operations in FY 2025 and recommends its approval

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, Kailahun District, a Class A district with high revenue potential, has a population of 545,947 and approximately 23,000 properties, generating an estimated annual revenue of **2,300,000** New Leones (S 116,455). With effective revenue management, the Council could fund 50% of its development needs, covering 30% through property tax and **20%** from additional sources.

However, current annual revenue collection averages only 500,000 New Leones **[\$25,316]** due to limited logistics, financial, human resource, and technological capacity. The Mission of the Council is to deliver quality services that align with national and local priorities, enhancing the quality of life in Kailahun District.

2024 FINANCIAL YEAR BUDGET PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Kailahun District Council outlined key sources of revenue for the fiscal years 2024 and 2025, including Property Tax, Local Tax, Fees and Charges, Evacuation Fees, Sand Mining Fees, Market Dues, Mining Fees, Business Registration, and Hall Rental. These revenue streams play a critical role in funding the district's development priorities.

The 2024 financial year's budgeted revenue was **NLe 1,716,985.00**, but only **NLe712,683.00** was collected, indicating significant revenue mobilization challenges. Of the approved budget of **NLe30,307,183.00**, the council received **NLe15,029,313.00** from the GoSL regular budget and other sources (RMFA). Total actual expenditure to date amounts to **NLe5,867,828.00**, covering sectors such as Gender and Children's Affairs, Water Services, Waste Management, Health Care, Sports, Environment, Youth, Fire Prevention, Libraries, Education, and Agriculture.

2025 FINANCIAL YEAR OUTLOOK

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Kailahun District Council has projected a revenue target of **Nle 2,442,746** for the 2025 financial year. Guided by a ceiling of **Nle 14,698,325.00** set by the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Council initially submitted a budget proposal of **Nle 26,424,629.00**, which received preliminary approval. However, the MoF has now allocated **Nle 17,171,316.00** for Parliamentary approval.

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Committee considers this allocation adequate, as it slightly exceeds the Council's previous year's allocation.

2.0. VOTE [107 01] WESTERN AREA DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Hon. Members, the Western Area of Sierra Leone is divided into two districts: the Western Area Urban District and the Western Area Rural District. The Western Area Urban District encompasses the capital city, Freetown, and is governed by the Freetown City Council, which is headed by a directly elected mayor. The Western Area Rural District, with its administrative center in Waterloo, is managed by the Western Area Rural District Council (WARDC). This council is led by a District Council Chairman and comprises 27 wards, each represented by an elected councillor.

2024 FY Budget Performance Review

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2024 financial year, the Western **Area** Rural District Council (WARDC) initially submitted a budget of Nle 8,626,553.09, but the Ministry of Finance allocated Nle 7,107,014. The Vote Controller reported that this budget reduction significantly impacted key sectors, including waste management in Waterloo, education, agriculture, and rural water services.

Despite these challenges, the Council reported total revenue receipts of Nle 9,327,578.00, surpassing its projected own-source revenue target of Nle 6,277,573. The total revenue received by the Council in 2024 amounted to Nle 18,879,898. This figure includes the GoSL Regular budget, GoSL Supplementary budget, grants from the EU, own-source revenue, and revenue from school buses.

As of September 30, 2024, expenditures from the Council's own-source revenue amounted to Nle... Additional expenditures included the GoSL Administrative Grant of Nle 908,551.25, the European Union Project, and the Road Maintenance Fund Administration. Detailed expenditures on GoSL transfers for devolved sectors highlight the Council's diverse responsibilities.

Revenue Collection Improvements

The Vote Controller attributed the Council's revenue increase to several strategic initiatives, including:

- Employment of 86 additional staff.
- Establishment of a bailiff section, billboards, and banners.

- Assessment of 39,000 new properties for billing.
- Introduction of new revenue strategies, including setting up checkpoints for local tax collection.
- Procurement of vehicles, ¹¹"kekehs," and motorbikes for revenue collection.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee acknowledges the Council's commendable revenue collection efforts and recommends the following actions to further boost revenue mobilization:

- **Maximize the district's revenue potential through enhanced operational efficiency.**
- **Recruit more staff and procure additional motorbikes, vehicles, and "kekehs" for revenue collection.**
- **Raise taxpayer awareness on the importance of paying taxes.**

Outlook for 2025

For the 2025 financial year, WARDC submitted a budget of **NLe 13,241,475.00**, which aligns with its recommended ceiling. The Ministry of Finance approved the same amount as the Council's GoSL Regular budget.

The Vote Controller assured the Committee that the Council would utilize the allocated budget effectively to address critical developmental areas, including waste management in Waterloo, education, agriculture, and rural water services.

RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends that the 2025 budget allocation of NLe 13,241,475.00 be used Judiciously for the benefit of citizens. The Committee considers the budget allocation of NLe 13,241,475.00 for Western Area Rural District Council adequate and recommends its approval by the House.

VOTE [VARIOUS] SIERRA LEONE ROADS AUTHORITY

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

2024 Financial Year Budget Performance Review

SLRA's revenue sources include registration and renewal of contractors/suppliers/consultants' certificates, sale of bid documents, disposal of serviceable vehicles, land leases for Rights of Way (ROW), trench reinstatement fees, laboratory testing charges, and billboard levies.

For the 2024 financial year, the Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA) submitted a budget proposal of NLe 139,009,683.80, while the Ministry of Finance approved a higher budget of NLe 189,887,093.90. However, the actual allocation for SLRA stood at NLe 110,673,200. As of September 30, 2024, SLRA had received NLe 42,111,992.10 through direct payments from the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL).

Despite financial constraints, SLRA generated NLe 6,718,057.20 in Quarter 4 of 2023 and NLe 944,810.90 in 2024, surpassing its prior year's Q4 revenue. Additionally, the Authority received grants totalling **\$60,201,234.50**.

In response to concerns about expenditure, the Vote Controller explained that funds were used as intended, including compensating persons affected by road projects, paying project contractors and consultants, and covering management and supervision fees.

2025 Financial Year Budget Outlook

For the FY 2025, the Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA) submitted a budget of **NLe 168,810,000.56**, exceeding the budget ceiling of **NLe 135,500,000.00** set by the Ministry of

Finance (MoF). Although the initial budget approved by the MoF was **NLe 168,810,000.00**, only **NLe 107,564,000.00** has been allocated to the Authority. This reduction will impact:

- The scope of planned road maintenance works and daily operations.
- Human resource development, including recruitment, training, and staff motivation.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Revenue Generation: SLRA should strengthen revenue collection by enhancing 'Che registration and renewal process, optimizing ROW lease agreements, and imposing fines for truck overloading.

Legislative Support: The Authority should collaborate with Parliament and the Attorney General's Office to pass legislation against unlawful ROW usage.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, these strategic actions will bolster SLRA financial stability, enabling it to deliver critical infrastructure improvements across Sierra Leone. The Committee recommends the approval 107,564,000 as its allocation for the 2025 financial year.

CONCLUSION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends adoption of the Report of Appropriations Sub-committee **No.6** and incorporating Budget Heads, including Sub- Heads of listed Ministries, Departments and Agencies [MDAs] into the 2025 Budgetary Allocation schedule.

| MDAs ACCOUNTS HEADS [INCLUDING SUB-HEADS] FOR 2025 FY | | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| No | Vote | Division | Vote Description | Total Sum Voted [Nle] |
| 1. | 110 | 04 | Anti-Corruption Commission | 13,607,800 |
| 2. | 110 | 05 | Office of the Ombudsman | 3,526,900 |
| 3. | 110 | 06 | Independent Media Commission | 2,580,700 |
| 4. | 124 | 01 | Office of the Solicitor General | 17,879,600 |

| | | | | |
|-----|---------|----|--|--------------------|
| 5. | 124 | 02 | The Administrator & Registrar General | 7,431,900 |
| 6. | 124 | 03 | Justice Sector Coordination Office | 3,263,300 |
| 7. | 132 | 01 | Accountant General's Department | 29,849,100 |
| 8. | 303 | 01 | Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs | 11,196,300 |
| 9. | 320 | 01 | National Sports Authority | 71,714,800 |
| 10. | 402 | 01 | Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources | 23,756,300 |
| 11. | 405 | 02 | Monuments and Relics Commission | 3,394,900 |
| 12. | 411 | 01 | Road Maintenance Fund Administration | 249,087,100 |
| 13. | 107 | 01 | Kailahun District Council | 17,171,316 |
| 14. | 107 | 01 | Western Area Rural District Council | 13,241,475 |
| 15. | Various | | Sierra Leone Road Authority | 107,564,000 |



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CHAIRMAN, APPROPRIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE 6

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we have very long day, I and I am sure you have nothing to say, not so? Madam Minister, let hear from you.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the following vote as amended for otherwise, if any stand part of the schedule.

| MDAs ACCOUNTS HEADS [INCLUDING SUB-HEADS] FOR 2025 FY | | | | |
|---|------|----------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| No | Vote | Division | Vote Description | Total Sum Voted [Nle] |
| 1. | 110 | 04 | Anti-Corruption Commission | 13,607,800 |
| 2. | 110 | 05 | Office of the Ombudsman | 3,526,900 |

| | | | | |
|-----|---------|----|--|--------------------|
| 3. | 110 | 06 | Independent Media Commission | 2,580,700 |
| 4. | 124 | 01 | Office of the Solicitor General | 17,879,600 |
| 5. | 124 | 02 | The Administrator & Registrar General | 7,431,900 |
| 6. | 124 | 03 | Justice Sector Coordination Office | 3,263,300 |
| 7. | 132 | 01 | Accountant General's Department | 29,849,100 |
| 8. | 303 | 01 | Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs | 11,196,300 |
| 9. | 320 | 01 | National Sports Authority | 71,714,800 |
| 10. | 402 | 01 | Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources | 23,756,300 |
| 11. | 405 | 02 | Monuments and Relics Commission | 3,394,900 |
| 12. | 411 | 01 | Road Maintenance Fund Administration | 249,087,100 |
| 13. | 107 | 01 | Kailahun District Council | 17,171,316 |
| 14. | 107 | 01 | Western Area Rural District Council | 13,241,475 |
| 15. | Various | | Sierra Leone Road Authority | 107,564,000 |

[QUESTION PROPOSED AND AGREED TO]

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

THE SPEAKER: Proceed.

GROUP FOUR

VOTE HEADS

20501, 40301, 11007, 13401, 11011, 42801, 42802, 11012, 11801, 11009, 42803, 12501, 11013, 70110 and 70107, to stand part of the schedule.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the following votes stand part of the schedule.

MDAs ACCOUNT HEADS [INCLUDING SUB-HEADS] FOR 2025 FY

| Vote | Div | Vote Description | Amount [NLe] |
|-------------|------------|---|---------------------|
| 205 | 01 | Ministry of Internal Affairs | 4,460,700.00 |
| 403 | 01 | Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources | 6,472,500.00 |
| 110 | 07 | Political Parties Regulation Commission | 6,114,100.00 |
| 134 | 01 | Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone | 97,000,000.00 |

| | | | |
|-----|----|--|---------------|
| 110 | 11 | Public Sector Reform Unit | 3,992,400.00 |
| 428 | 01 | National Investment Board | 8,610,600.00 |
| 428 | 02 | Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency | 4,884,500.00 |
| 110 | 12 | National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency | 5,069,400.00 |
| 118 | 01 | The Judiciary | 30,000,000.00 |
| 110 | 09 | Sierra Leone Insurance Commission | 2,784,700.00 |
| 428 | 03 | Corporate Affairs Commission | 1,697,500.00 |
| 125 | 01 | Local Courts | 979,000.00 |
| 110 | 13 | Presidential Initiative for Climate Change, Renewable Energy & Food Security | 15,955,800.00 |
| 701 | 10 | Koinadugu District Council | 13,045,690.00 |
| 701 | 07 | Makeni City Council | 6,093,055.00 |

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

HON. SULAIMAN MARRY CONTEH: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I hereby present the Report of Sub Appropriation Committee of Supplies, Committee **No. 4**

1. INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, consistent with the provisions on **Paragraphs (a&b) of subsection (3) of section (111) and subsections (1,3&6) of section (112)** of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991 and **Standing Order 64 (3) and 66 (1)** of the **Standing Orders** (S.O.) of the Parliament of Sierra Leone, the under-mentioned budgetary Votes Heads were committed to the **Appropriation Sub-Committee Group 4** and charged with the responsibility to review the Budgetary Estimates for the **Fiscal Year 2024** and proffer recommendations to the House thereof for budgetary allocations for 2025 FY.

- i. Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the theme for the 2024 **Government Budget** is **“Improving the Wellbeing and Quality of Life of Sierra Leoneans”**. Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the revenue performance for the first six months (January – June) of 2024 was very encouraging. Total domestic revenue collected was NLe. 7.5 billion (4.5 percent of GDP), exceeding the revenue by NLe 386.4 Million. Total expenditure and net Net Lending for the same period amounted to

NLe 11.8 billion (7.2 percent of GDP). Recurrent expenditure amounted to NLe 8.9 billion (5.4 percent of GDP). Growth is projected to reach 4.5 percent in 2025 and average 4.7 percent in 2026 and 2027. This is driven primarily by strong activities in mining and other economic activities. This budget is aimed at improving the lives of Sierra Leoneans through the following key objectives, namely:

- ii. Further reducing inflation and achieving stability of the exchange rate to enhance household incomes, thereby improving standard of living of the people
- iii. Prudently manage public finances to create the fiscal space for investment in the social and economic sectors
- iv. Support the Feed Salone Initiative to boost agricultural productivity for food security
- v. Sustain investments in human capital development to improve the productivity and quality of our workforce
- vi. Continue to invest in infrastructure, technology and innovation to boost productivity and the growth potential of the economy
- vii. Deepen and broaden social protection programmes to support the poor and vulnerable groups in our society, thereby ensuring social and economic inclusion
- viii. Improve the business environment to promote growth and create job opportunities
- ix. Support activities that promote a greener environment and address climate risks
- x. Strengthen public administration for effective and efficient public service delivery and good governance

1. SCOPE OF THE EXERCISE

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, this Report covers 15 Ministries, Departments and Agencies assigned to the **Appropriation Sub-committee. Their proposed budget details are presented in the table below:**

MDAs ACCOUNT HEADS [INCLUDING SUB-HEADS] FOR 2025 FY

| Vote | Div | Vote Description | Amount [NLe] |
|------|-----|---|---------------|
| 205 | 01 | Ministry of Internal Affairs | 4,460,700.00 |
| 403 | 01 | Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources | 6,472,500.00 |
| 110 | 07 | Political Parties Regulation Commission | 6,114,100.00 |
| 134 | 01 | Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone | 97,000,000.00 |
| 110 | 11 | Public Sector Reform Unit | 3,992,400.00 |
| 428 | 01 | National Investment Board | 8,610,600.00 |
| 428 | 02 | Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency | 4,884,500.00 |
| 110 | 12 | National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency | 5,069,400.00 |
| 118 | 01 | The Judiciary | 30,000,000.00 |
| 110 | 09 | Sierra Leone Insurance Commission | 2,784,700.00 |

| | | | |
|-----|----|--|---------------|
| 428 | 03 | Corporate Affairs Commission | 1,697,500.00 |
| 125 | 01 | Local Courts | 979,000.00 |
| 110 | 13 | Presidential Initiative for Climate Change, Renewable Energy & Food Security | 15,955,800.00 |
| 701 | 10 | Koinadugu District Council | 13,045,690.00 |
| 701 | 07 | Makeni City Council | 6,093,055.00 |

2. PROCEDURE

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, before the exercise commenced, summon letters and open-ended questionnaires were sent out to all Vote Controllers, requesting their presence, both past and present core staff. In line with S.O. 66[1], Vote Controllers, Accountants and other senior officials were requested to respond to questions relating to their budgetary allocations, state their challenges and provide comprehensive summation of how they have been carrying out their mandate. This was meant to determine the efficient and prudent use of financial resources.

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

3. OBJECTIVES

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Appropriation Sub-Committee looked into the activities of the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies assigned to it, with the aim of achieving the following Objectives:

- ❖ To have an in-depth analysis financial record in line with established regulations eg. Financial Management Regulations to determine MDAs' adherence to prescribed regulations in the utilization of resources allocated to them in the 2025 Fiscal Year
- ❖ To ascertain whether Vote Controllers made prudent use of public funds through which government is accountable for its expenditure decisions pursuant to Section 112 (1) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone (Act No. 6 of 1991)
- ❖ To identify challenges in rolling out annual works plans and proffer recommendations for effective service delivery.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

1. Hon. Sulaiman Marray Conteh – **Chairman**
2. Hon. Joseph Bash Kamara – **Deputy Chairman**

3. Hon. Mohamed T. Fofana - Member
4. Hon. Adama Bangura - Member
5. Hon. Sheku Terenah Tongos Neya Konkoroba Fanko Lai Marah III – Member
6. Hon. Aruna Papay Solomon Larkoh – Member
7. Hon. Alusine Bash Kamara - Member
8. Hon. Ahmed Joseph Kanu - Member
9. Hon. Sorieba Alhaji Turay - Member
10. Hon. Memunatu Jalloh - Member
11. Hon. Mohamed Bangura - Member
12. Hon. Mohamed Papa Bangura - Member

xi. SUPPORT STAFF

1. James T. Lahai – **Lead Clerk**
2. Alimatu Sheriff – Assistant Clerk
3. Mustapha Sillah – Clerk
4. Fatmata Magazie – PBO

6. GENERAL FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that the Ministry of Finance continues to act in contravention of the provisions in **sub-paragraphs (a-k) of subsection [1] of section [23] of the Public Financial Management Act 2016** which requires the laying before Parliament a Fiscal Strategy Statement not later than the end of the 10th month of every financial year by the Minister of Finance.

The Committee recommends that, the Minister of Finance adheres to the Provision in the Act and act accordingly in subsequent years and that this House recommends stringent action if this Provision is contravened in 2025.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the phenomenon of late submission of Sub Appropriation questionnaires is not just limited to a few MDAs, but is now widespread and pervasive. This is a major contributing factor to the delay in the entire appropriation process. Some of the MDAs came along with their questionnaires on the day of hearing.

The Committee therefore recommends that the House considers a very strong penalty against MDAs that may flout this requirement in subsequent years.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, in our report to this House last year, the Committee observed that, Heads of Expenditures with the same vote heads were distributed to different appropriation sub committees, against Standing Order [66] [1]. The Committee further informed this house of the effect of this action on the appropriation process. Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed in this process that no corrective action was taken on our observation last year. MDAs with the same vote heads were scattered in different groups, making extremely difficult to corroborate expenditure patterns and this made it very difficult to effectively scrutiny of the votes.

The committee therefore recommends that Heads of Expenditure with agencies under the same vote be assigned to one Committee to enhance clarity and effectiveness in the review exercise

In spite of Parliament's persistent recommendations over the years, the Committee observed again that most of the MDAs assigned to this Committee only received allocations for one or two quarters with outstanding never delivered to their accounts. This is particularly so in the case of Local Councils.

The Committee recommends that, the Ministry of Finance allocates realistic and affordable budgets to MDAs

SPECIFIC FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

[VOTE 205 01]: MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

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

In 2024 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated **NLe 4,639,700** to this Ministry to provide effective security for the State. However, the Ministry received **NLe 4,216,624.81** for quarters 1, 2 and 3, indicating a shortfall of **NLe 423,075.19**, but actual expenditure amounted to **NLe 3,137,832**. This was expended on various deliverables, including general administration, border coordination and management, provision of technical advice on security related issues human resource, budget preparation, implementation and monitoring; development of the Ministry's strategic plan 2024-2026, support to the development of policies and Cabinet Papers; development of information, communication and technology; implementation of national Action Plan on statelessness, supporting the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Coordination of donor activities, etc.

For 2025 FY, the Ministry's original budget submission to the Ministry of Finance was **NLe 11,870,500.00**, but actual allocation was **NLe 4,460,700.00**. According to the PS, this allocation would be used to continue the development of the Ministry's 2024-2026 Strategic Plan, Border coordination and management, human resource planning and Management, provision of technical advice on security related issues, development of information, communication and technology, implementation of National Action Plan on statelessness, coordination and monitoring of the affairs of the Sierra Leone Police.

The Committee further observed the following

- ❖ The Ministry had a budget shortfall of **NLe 423,075.19** which implies that actual budget received was less than what was allocated. Consequently, the Ministry could not carry out all planned activities indicated in their Annual Work Plan; and
- ❖ The Ministry is seriously challenged with mobility and this inhibits movement of essential staff across various locations, especially during security emergencies.

Considering the vital role of the Ministry's mandate with respect to providing effective monitoring and supervision of the internal security sectors in the country, the Committee recommends that the Ministry's 2025 be approved by the House.

[VOTE 403 01]: MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, mining and mineral sector play a strategic role in Sierra Leone's economic growth and development which is built on its enormous mineral resources accounting for over **90%** of the country's export. As part of government's reforms so that the country derives maximum benefits from the mines and mineral gains from the mineral resource endowment. Over the years, the Ministry has developed three key policies which are now obsolete: the Sierra Leone Minerals Policy; the Artisanal Mining Policy and the Geo-data Management Policy. The Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources is responsible for the legislation, policy formulation, oversight and management of the mining and mineral sector.

In 2024 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of **NLe 3,437,028.00** out of an original budget of **NLe 9,000,000.00**. The Ministry, as at 3rd quarter of 2024, received **NLe 2,720,037.00**, registering a shortfall of **NLe 716,991.00**. This allocation was noted to have been spent on key deliverables, including administrative and operating costs, monitoring of artisanal mining operation, validation of mining community engagement and minerals development, develop a five year strategic plan in line with manifesto commitments for mineral sector, research and policy development.

It was observed that the Ministry was able to deliver on most of its key deliverables for the period under review. This include validation of mining community engagement and minerals' development, developing the five year strategic plan in line with manifesto commitments for the mineral sector and monitoring of artisanal mining operation.

For 2025 FY, the Ministry submitted an original budget of **NLe 9,092,356.00**, but was allocated **NLe 6,472,500.00**, indicating **28.8%** decrease. The PS disclosed that the allocation would be used to promote international and local investments in Sierra Leone, monitoring artisanal mining, state and non-state actors, strengthen the legal framework for mines and minerals sector in Sierra Leone, establish and operationalize mining area engagement unit and establishment and operationalization of the Environmental Mining Management Unit.

Examining the revenue records, the Committee observed that, total revenue generated for 2024FY is NLe 12,057,640.54, including NLe 9,337,603.54 from the National Minerals' Agency. However, the Committee could not find any records of revenue targets and actual revenue collected for 2023 and 2024 Financial Years. From the review of their operational plans, it was observed that three key policies developed by the Ministry are now obsolete and requires urgent review.

Considering the strategic role the Ministry plays as the bread basket of this nation, the Committee recommends that the Ministry's 2025 allocation in the tune of NLe 6,472,500.00, be approved by the House. Moreover, the Ministry should establish a Research and Policy Directorate to enable them carry out their responsibilities effectively.

[VOTE 110 07]: POLITICAL PARTIES REGULATION COMMISSION

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

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

In 2024 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of **NLe 4,365,604.45** to the PPRC, out of an original budget submission of **NLe 63,159,200.00**. The Committee observed that the Commission received **NLe 4,365,604.45**, representing **100%** of the actual allocation. This amount was expended on administrative costs, institutional capacity development and support to regional offices, political parties' capacity building and cohesion, regional engagement with stakeholders and political education.

The Committee noted the Commission's positive strides in delivering on its FY 2024 key

deliverable, especially those dealing with institutional capacity development and support to regional offices, and political parties capacity building, cohesion and political education. However, the Committee noted the Commission's failure to engage stakeholders at regional levels after the 2023 general elections.

For 2025 FY, the Commission's original budget is **NLe 28,676,160.00**, but has been allocated **NLe 6,114,100.00** by the Ministry of Finance. This allocation, according to the Vote Controller, would be used to implement key deliverables, including legal reforms, PPRC institutional capacity strengthening, communication, information, Communication and Technology, inclusion and participation [Gender, Youth and Disability], mediation [peace, cohesion, intra and Inter party dialogue] and capacity development for Political Parties. The Committee noted the commitments of the government of Sierra Leone in ensuring that a level playing field is provided for every political party to participate in the democratic space.

As regulators of the conduct of political parties in Sierra Leone, the Committee viewed their role in our democratic dispensation as key and therefore recommends that the Ministry of Finance provides additional funds for this Commission. The Committee also recommends that the Commission's 2025 allocation is approved by the House.

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

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

Although this Commission is not a revenue generating entity, it was observed that it received funds from nomination fees during the elections for President, Parliament, Mayor or Chairperson, and Councilors in 2023. However the Commission did not receive any such fees for the period under review.

In 2024 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of **NLe 162,216,000.00** to this Commission out of an original budget submission of **NLe 269,230,000.00**. It was however discovered that the Commission received **NLe 113,339.00**, representing **0.069%** of their allocation. The slash, in the Commission's original budget, affected the smooth implementation of key deliverables, such as administrative costs, institutional & infrastructural development, and bye elections.

For 2025 FY, the Commission's original budget submitted to the Ministry of Finance was **NLe 467,262,000.00** and a budget ceiling of **NLe 19,000,000.00**. It was nevertheless observed that the actual allocation was **NLe 97,000,000.00**. The Commissioner revealed that if the entire amount is released on time, it would help to upgrade the ICT Infrastructure, reform our electoral laws and

regulations, upgrade the voter register, institutional and infrastructural development, boundary delimitation, conduct bye elections, etc. The Committee was however informed that the reduction would affect the implementation of critical activities of the Commission, including upgrade of voter register, Institutional and Infrastructural development, boundary delimitation and the conduct of bye elections.

The Committee recommends that the Commission's 2025 allocation to the tune of NLe 97,000,000.00 be approved, by the House

[VOTE 110 11]: PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM UNIT [PSRU]

The Public Sector Reform Unit [PSRU] has the Mandate to provide leadership, co-ordination and strategic guidance in the design, implementation and monitoring of public sector reform initiatives. It provides backstopping to the newly renamed Ministry of Public Administration and Political Affairs to develop critical reform documents that could serve as a roadmap to transforming the public sector space for improved service delivery on cluster 4 of the Mid Term Development Plan – “Revamping the Public Sector Architecture”

In 2024 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated **NLe 1,460,200.00** to this Unit out of a budget submission of **NLe 24,716,160.00**. It was however noted that the Unit received the same amount, representing **100%** of its original allocation. This amount was noted to have been expended on administrative costs, strategic alignment of MDAs to support the implementation of the big 5 Game Changers in the manifesto and institutional capacity building for PSRU enhanced and GoSL's public sector reforms activities/initiative. The Committee further found that donor partners' intervention helped to close the gap created by the decrease in budget allocation.

For 2025 FY, the Unit submitted an original budget of **NLe24,977,194.00**, but was however allocated **NLe 3,992,400.00**. The Vote Controller disclosed that the allocation would be used on key deliverables, including strategic alignment of MDAs to support the implementation of the Big 5 Game Changers in the Manifesto, and coordination and management of public sector reforms programmes.

While recommending the approval of the Unit's 2025 allocation, the Committee however saw the need for an increase in budgetary allocation, so as to enable the Unit fully deliver on the new policy directives of government for 2025 FY.

[VOTE 428 01]: NATIONAL INVESTMENTS BOARD

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

In 2024 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated **NLe 3,820,904.00** to the Board, out of an original budget submission of **NLe 9,636,958.00**. It was however noted that the Board, as at the 3rd

quarter of 2024 received **NLe 2,159, 764.52, and** was spent on administrative costs, presidential launch, and capacity building of staff, private sector development, and communication. It was however the National Investment Board could not accomplish all planned deliverables due to budget shortfall.

For 2025 FY, the Board's original budget submission to the Ministry of Finance was **NLe20, 300,500.00**, but was nevertheless allocated **NLe 8,610,600.00**, slightly above its budget ceiling of **NLe 7,433,600.00**. This amount was spent on key deliverables, including presidential launch of NIB, capacity/competency development of NIB staff, private sector development and branding and communication.

The Committee considered the Board's 2025 allocation to the tune of NLe 8,610,600.00 as adequate and therefore recommends for its approval.

[VOTE 205 01]: SIERRA LEONE INVESTMENT AND EXPORT PROMOTION AGENCY (SLIEPA)

The Sierra Leone Investments and Export Promotion Agency [SLIEPA] was created through the enactment of the Investment Promotion Act No 10 of 2004. The objective of the Agency is to promote and facilitate investment opportunities to potential investors through the establishment of an institution that is tasked with the responsibility of facilitating the registration of business enterprises, business development and training, access to finance and advocacy among others. Hence, the Mandate of the Board is to conduct the business of investments promotion in Sierra Leone, and develop and diversify the export of traditional and non-traditional products from Sierra Leone.

In 2024 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated **NLe 4,046,000.00** to the Agency, out of an original budget of **NLe 7,033,185.00**. It was however disclosed that the Agency received **NLe 2,650,645.00**, indicating 34% of decrease from its original allocation. According to the Vote Controller, this amount was said to have been expended on key deliverables, such as administrative costs, export development, strategy development & investment promotion, production. Marketing & communications. However, it was noted that the Agency could not fully achieve its 2024 deliverables due to budget cut.

For 2025 FY, the Agency's original budget submission to the Ministry of Finance was **NLe 9,761,536.00**, but was nevertheless allocated **NLe 4,884,500.00** slightly below its budget ceiling of **NLe 5,940,200.00**. The expected deliverables on which this allocation is to be spent are investment promotion and export development; production, marketing and communication; research, planning and policy development; etc.

The Committee viewed the Agency's 2025 allocation of NLe 4,884,500.00 as adequate and thus recommends for its approval.

[VOTE 110 12]: NATIONAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION AGENCY

The National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency was established to eradicate phony government

implemented projects, a practice that has retrogressed Sierra Leone's development after independence. It is established under the Office of the President with the Secretary to the President as Vote Controller.

In 2024 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated **NLe 4,000,000.00** to this Agency and received the same amount. This was expended on key priority areas, including office running costs, maintenance and repairs, transportation and communication, security & workplace health and sanitation services, monitoring & evaluation exercise, etc.

For 2025 FY, the Agency submitted an original budget of **NLe 14,534,500.20** to the Ministry of Finance, but was allocated **NLe 5,069,400.00**. According to the Vote Controller, the decrease would affect complete delivery of planned activities. Management however expressed optimism that if the allocation is fully released on time, most of the Agency's financial challenges would be addressed.

The Committee deemed the Agency's 2025 allocation of NLe 5,069,400.00 as adequate and therefore recommends for its approval.

[VOTE 118 01]: JUDICIARY OF SIERRA LEONE

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

In 2024 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of **NLe 24,305,000.00** to the Judiciary, out of an original budget submission of **NLe 58,824,000.00**. It was observed from the review of documents that the institution received **NLe 24,305,000.00**, representing **100%** of the allocated amount. It was discovered that **NLe 20,837,000.00** was expended from this allocation on such priority areas as general administration, court operations and Support, ECOWAS court conferences, trainings and professional development of staff welfare, international and local travels, adjudication of supreme court matters, adjudication of high and magistrates' courts, adjudication of appeals court and support to the activities of the judicial & legal service commission. The Committee also noted that the Institution received **NLe 1,033,000.00** as donations and grants. However, the sources of these donations and grants were not specified in their report

For 2025 FY, the Institution submitted an original budget of **NLe 60,654,000.00** to the Ministry of Finance, but was allocated **NLe 30, 000,000.00**. According to the Vote Controller, the decrease would affect complete delivery of key deliverables, including oversight, Supervision, Research and development and support to social, economic & commercial law and justice, general administration; and adjudication of Supreme Court, Appeal Court, High Court and Magistrate Courts Matters.

From the review of the completed questionnaire, the Committee observed that the Institution recorded a considerable leap in revenue from 2023 to 2024 Financial Years from the following sources: Court Fees, Court Fines, Auctioneer Licenses, Liquor Licenses. In 2023, total revenue collected amounted to **NLe 1,467,823.75** and in 2024, total revenue collected is **NLe 4,638,771.00**. These funds according to the finance officer, were used on general administration, Courts operations, training and professional development of staff

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

The Committee considered the Judiciary's 2025 allocation of NLe 30,000,000 as adequate and therefore recommends for its approval. The Committee further recommends that Management fast track the review process of the rules relating to fees and fines, with a view to ensuring the maximization of revenue collection.

[VOTE 110 09]: SIERRA LEONE INSURANCE COMMISSION

The Sierra Leone Insurance Commission has a mission to ensure effective administration, supervision, regulation and monitoring of the Insurance Industry in Sierra Leone. It has a mandate to transform the Insurance Industry in Sierra Leone to a stage where it is largely self-regulatory and to develop within itself the forces of growth and prosperity and operates independently with a strong sense of accountability and social responsibility.

The Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of NLe **500,000.00** to the Commission for 2024 FY, out of an original budget of **NLe 2,607,000.00**. However, it was observed that the Commission received **NLe 1,000,000**, which was said to have been spent on local and international travels, official reception and entertainment, security and printing costs, insurance, uniforms, repairs and maintenance.

The Committee observed that the revenue target for 2023 was **NLe 2,500,000.00** while actual revenue collected was **NLe 1,800,000.00**. In 2024, the revenue target was **NLe 2,800,000.00** and total revenue collected was **NLe 1,900,000.00**

For 2025 FY, the Institution submitted an original budget of **NLe 5,630,000** to the Ministry of Finance, but was allocated **NLe 2,784,700**.

In view of the fact that the Commission helps to raise awareness on insurance issues and handle insurance grievances besides providing the required supports for inspection of insurance companies in Sierra Leone, the Committee recommends the following:

❖ the Commission's 2025 budget be approved and the Ministry of Finance ensures that allocations are released on time

- ❖ ***the Commission should closely monitor the activities of the insurance companies, especially the ones without strategic direction and at the same time have been failing to respond to victims of accidents;***
- ❖ ***the Commission should institute proper oversight mechanisms in terms of conducting onsite examination on all insurance companies as per their working calendar, customer strength, number of insurers compensated against the number of complaints received, and file all findings for reference purposes etc.***

VOTE [428 – 03] CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) is legally established to provide support towards business growth, issue out licenses and business registration certificates to potential investors, to provide information to the public, and contribute towards sustainable socio-economic development in the Country. The demand for administrative and service delivery to the public is rapidly increasing. Hence, the workload of the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) is increasing.

In 2024 FY, this Commission was allocated **Le 2,197,500.00**, but received **NLe 1,444,400**. The Committee noted that the allocation did not reflect the performance of the Commission in terms of prudent public financial management and the extensive services they provide. It was also observed that the Commission encountered huge challenges in the procurement of office equipment and operational running cost due to budget decrease.

The Committee observed that, for 2024FY, the Commission only received revenue from Government of Sierra Leone. This amount was spent on administrative costs.

The Committee considered the Commission's 2025 allocation of NLe 1,697,500.00 as inadequate and therefore recommends for additional funds to enable it deliver on its mandate.

[VOTE 125 01] THE LOCAL COURTS

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

In 2024 FY, the Courts received **NLe 1,000,000** from GoSL regular budget. The Committee observed that nothing had been spent from this allocation due to an existing rift which has to do with whether the Courts should be answerable to the Judiciary or to the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Local Courts are a cornerstone of Sierra Leone's Justice

System, particularly in rural areas where access to formal courts is limited. These Courts, which predominantly apply customary law, provide an accessible and culturally sensitive means of resolving disputes. Addressing these challenges requires reinforcing the role of the Judiciary of Sierra Leone in supervising and administering local Courts.

The Constitution of Sierra Leone of 1991 Act No. 6 of 1991 and the Local Courts Act No. 10 of 2011, collectively establish the Judiciary as the custodian of Justice at all levels. Section 120 (1) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No. 6 of 1991 unequivocally states: “The Judicial Power of Sierra Leone shall be vested in the Judiciary, of which, the Chief Justice shall be the head”. This position underscores the Judiciary’s centrality in the administration of Justice.

Furthermore, the Local Courts Act No. 10 of 2011 details the Judiciary’s responsibilities as follows:

- ❖ Under Sections 2(2) and 4 (1-2) of the Act, the Chief Justice has the authority to appoint or remove Chairpersons of Local Courts;
- ❖ Establishment of Local Courts Service Commission: Section 7(1) mandates the Chief Justice to establish the Local Courts Service Commission for each province

In view of these provisions, the Committee holds the view that the Local Courts should be administered and supervised by the Judiciary. Therefore, since the Courts has still not utilized their 2024 allocation to the tune of NLe 1,000,000, the Committee considered the 2025 allocation of NLe 979,000.00 as adequate therefore recommends for its approved.

[VOTE 110 13]: PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, RENEWABLE ENERGY & FOOD SECURITY

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, despite several attempts through phone calls, the Committee did not receive the sub appropriation questionnaire from the Presidential Initiative for climate change, renewable energy and food security.

In consideration of the crucial role in addressing the nation’s energy crisis and the effects of climate change, the Committee recommends that all departments and agencies under the office of the President be allocated to one Sub Appropriation Committee to ensure easier facilitation.

[VOTE 110 07]: KOINADUGU DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, Koinadugu District Council is one of the 22 Local Councils in Sierra Leone. In 2024 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of **NLe 18,771,756.00** to this Council, but however received **NLe 5,641,298.23**. This was expended on general administration, wastes management, school bus services, and capacity building of staff.

A cross examination of Council's revenue generation status revealed that out of a revenue projection of **NLe 127,495** Council collected **NLe 141,279.60** from various revenue streams, including market dues, business licenses, etc. This indicates a positive variance **NLe 13,784.00**.

For 2025 FY, Council's original budget submission was **NLe 16,737,243.75**. However, **NLe 13,045,690.00** was the actual allocation. Council's projected a revenue target of **NLe 1,766,000** for 2025 FY.

The Committee deemed Council's allocation to the tune of NLe 13,045,690.00 as adequate and therefore recommends for its approval.

[VOTE 701 07]: MAKENI CITY COUNCIL

The Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of **NLe 3,152,067.00** to the Makeni City Council for 2024 FY out of an original budget of **NLe 3,164,174.00**. It was noted that Council received **NLe 3,344,658.00** slightly above what was allocated by the Ministry of Finance. This was expended on various priority areas, including healthcare, agriculture, social welfare, waste management, education, etc. Council's revenue target for the period under review was **NLe 3,225,381.00**, but actual revenue collected was **NLe 1,870,767.00**, registering a shortfall of **42%**.

For 2025 FY, the Council was allocated **NLe 6,090,055.00** by the Ministry of Finance from a budget submission of **NLe 3,152,067.00**

The revenue target for 2025 FY is **NLe 18,894,777.00** from various revenue streams, such as payment from taxes, licenses, school bus and fines

The Committee views the Council's allocation to the tune of NLe 6,090,055.00 as adequate and therefore recommends for its approval.

CONCLUSION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, pursuant to Section 11 Sub-section [3] [a] and **S.O 66 [1&2]**, the Committee unanimously recommends that the entire Vote Heads, including the Sub-Heads listed below stand part of the schedule and that the recommendations contained therein be approved

MDAs ACCOUNT HEADS [INCLUDING SUB-HEADS] FOR 2025 FY

| Vote | Div | Vote Description | Amount [NLe] |
|-------------|------------|---|---------------------|
| 205 | 01 | Ministry of Internal Affairs | 4,460,700.00 |
| 403 | 01 | Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources | 6,472,500.00 |
| 110 | 07 | Political Parties Regulation Commission | 6,114,100.00 |

| | | | |
|-----|----|--|---------------|
| 134 | 01 | Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone | 97,000,000.00 |
| 110 | 11 | Public Sector Reform Unit | 3,992,400.00 |
| 428 | 01 | National Investment Board | 8,610,600.00 |
| 428 | 02 | Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency | 4,884,500.00 |
| 110 | 12 | National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency | 5,069,400.00 |
| 118 | 01 | The Judiciary | 30,000,000.00 |
| 110 | 09 | Sierra Leone Insurance Commission | 2,784,700.00 |
| 428 | 03 | Corporate Affairs Commission | 1,697,500.00 |
| 125 | 01 | Local Courts | 979,000.00 |
| 110 | 13 | Presidential Initiative for Climate Change, Renewable Energy & Food Security | 15,955,800.00 |
| 701 | 10 | Koinadugu District Council | 13,045,690.00 |
| 701 | 07 | Makeni City Council | 6,093,055.00 |

Submitted By

.....
Honourable Abdul Sulaiman Marray Conteh
Chairman

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I know as a matter of fact, that you do not have any comment, not so? Madam Minister, proceed.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the following votes stand as part of the schedule

MDAs ACCOUNT HEADS [INCLUDING SUB-HEADS] FOR 2025 FY

| Vote | Div | Vote Description | Amount [NLe] |
|-------------|------------|---|---------------------|
| 205 | 01 | Ministry of Internal Affairs | 4,460,700.00 |
| 403 | 01 | Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources | 6,472,500.00 |
| 110 | 07 | Political Parties Regulation Commission | 6,114,100.00 |
| 134 | 01 | Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone | 97,000,000.00 |
| 110 | 11 | Public Sector Reform Unit | 3,992,400.00 |

| | | | |
|-----|----|--|---------------|
| 428 | 01 | National Investment Board | 8,610,600.00 |
| 428 | 02 | Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency | 4,884,500.00 |
| 110 | 12 | National Monitoring and Evaluation Agency | 5,069,400.00 |
| 118 | 01 | The Judiciary | 30,000,000.00 |
| 110 | 09 | Sierra Leone Insurance Commission | 2,784,700.00 |
| 428 | 03 | Corporate Affairs Commission | 1,697,500.00 |
| 125 | 01 | Local Courts | 979,000.00 |
| 110 | 13 | Presidential Initiative for Climate Change, Renewable Energy & Food Security | 15,955,800.00 |
| 701 | 10 | Koinadugu District Council | 13,045,690.00 |
| 701 | 07 | Makeni City Council | 6,093,055.00 |

[QUESTION PROPOSED, PUT AND AGREED TO]

[The following vote as pronounced by the Minister Form part of the schedule].

GROUP FIVE

VOTE HEADS

14201, 10501, 10502, 20701, 31801, 31701, 31902, 40901, 40902, 40903, 40904, 40905, 40906, 42601 and 70118 to stand part of the schedule.

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

Table 1: MDAs Account Heads and their Allocations for 2025 FY:

| Vote | Div. | Vote Description | Amount [NLe] |
|-------------|-------------|---|---------------------|
| 142 | 01 | National Public Procurement Authority (NPPA) | 8,063,500 |
| 105 | 01 | Min. of Public Administration and Political Affairs | 6,271,300 |
| 105 | 02 | African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) | 5,069,000 |
| 207 | 01 | Sierra Leone Correctional Service | 148,483,600 |
| 318 | 01 | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change | 9,696,300 |
| 317 | 01 | Sierra Leone Council for Post Graduate College of Health Specialist | 3,281,700 |

| | | | |
|------|----|--|------------|
| 319 | 02 | National Children's Commission | 3,126,400 |
| 409 | 01 | Ministry of Trade and Industry | 9,958,700 |
| 409 | 02 | Sierra Leone Standard Bureau | 3,866,000 |
| 409 | 03 | Department of Cooperatives | 2,058,000, |
| 409 | 04 | Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company | 1,131,600 |
| 409 | 05 | Sierra Leone Monitoring Board | 3, 421,200 |
| 409 | 06 | Consumer Protection commission | 2,905,300 |
| 426 | 01 | Sierra Leone Seed Certification Agency | 3,480,400 |
| 701` | 18 | Pujehun District Council | 14,933,174 |

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

HON. NENEH LEBBIE: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I hereby present the Report of Sub Appropriation Committee of Supplies, Committee **No. 5**

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, the 2025 budget with the theme “**Improving the Well-being and Quality of Life of Sierra Leonean**” is the financial statement in which commitments of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) were partly achieved and others to be rolled over due to many competing priorities. However, the Government continues to implement policies, programs, and projects to address the challenges facing the country Development Plan.

Whilst acknowledging that the 2025 budgetary allocations to various MDAs shows substantial increment, the Committee observed a dismal performance of MDAs as most programs were incomplete partly due to financial gaps such as late disbursement of budget allocations.

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, the Committee acknowledge the good work of all

Honorable Members of Parliament (MPs) of Sub-Appropriation Group 5 and Staff who put efforts together to produce this Report on the consolidated findings.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in accordance with Section 112 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone (Act No.6) of 1991, and Standing Orders S.O 64 and SO 66 (1), the examination of fifteen (15) budgetary vote heads and divisions for the 2025 Financial Year were committed to this Appropriation Sub-Committee No.5.

II SCOPE OF THE EXERCISE

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, this report covers 15 MDAs that formed part of the listed MDAs in the 2025 Appropriation Act. The hearings on the 2025 Budget lasted for four days and covered the following MDAs:

1. National Public Procurement Authority (NPPA)
2. Min. of Public Administration and Political Affairs
3. African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)
4. Sierra Leone Correctional Service
5. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
6. Sierra Leone Council for Postgraduate College of Health Specialist
7. National Children's Commission
8. Ministry of Trade and Industry
9. Sierra Leone Standard Bureau Department of Cooperatives
10. Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company
11. Sierra Leone Monitoring Board
12. Consumer Protection Commission
13. Sierra Leone Seed Certification Agency
14. Pujehun District Council

Table 1: MDAs Account Heads and their Allocations for 2025 FY:

| Vote | Div. | Vote Description | Amount [NLe] |
|-------------|-------------|---|---------------------|
| 142 | 01 | National Public Procurement Authority (NPPA) | 8,063,500 |
| 105 | 01 | Min. of Public Administration and Political Affairs | 6,271,300 |
| 105 | 02 | African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) | 5,069,000 |
| 207 | 01 | Sierra Leone Correctional Service | 148,483,600 |
| 318 | 01 | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change | 9,696,300 |
| 317 | 01 | Sierra Leone Council for Post Graduate College of Health Specialist | 3,281,700 |
| 319 | 02 | National Children's Commission | 3,126,400 |
| 409 | 01 | Ministry of Trade and Industry | 9,958,700 |
| 409 | 02 | Sierra Leone Standard Bureau | 3,866,000 |
| 409 | 03 | Department of Cooperatives | 2,058,000, |
| 409 | 04 | Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company | 1,131,600 |
| 409 | 05 | Sierra Leone Monitoring Board | 3, 421,200 |
| 409 | 06 | Consumer Protection commission | 2,905,300 |
| 426 | 01 | Sierra Leone Seed Certification Agency | 3,480,400 |
| 701 | 18 | Pujehun District Council | 14,933,174 |

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, before the exercise commenced, summon letters and open- ended questionnaires were sent out to all Vote Controllers of MDAs listed above, requesting their presence with core technical and professional staff during the Committee's hearing.

OBJECTIVE OF THE EXERCISE

HON. NENEH LEBBIE: Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, before the exercise commenced, summon letters and open- ended questionnaires were sent out to all Vote Controllers of MDAs listed above, requesting their presence with core technical and professional staff during the Committee's hearing.

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, with the provision of S.O 66 (1), this Sub- Appropriation Committee undertook this exercise with the objective of finding out the following:

- The challenges faced by the MDAs assigned to this Committee;
- To ensure Vote Controllers and their technical staff account for public resource including expenditure estimates for 2024 financial year that were under their Supervision
- control and management during the large part of the Financial Year (FY) under review
- Whether the MDAs adhered to the relevant provisions of the Public Financial Management laws and regulations in the utilization of public resources allocated in the last quarter of 2023 and the first 3 quarters of 2024.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, the following members of parliament were assigned to the Committee

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Hon. Neneh Lebbie | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Wuyata Bernadette Songa | Deputy Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Haja Miatta Amara | |
| 4. Hon. Daniel Amadu Bangura | |
| 5. Hon. Daniel Fornah | |
| 6. Hon. Rugiatu Kamara | |
| 7. Hon. Abu Kemokai | |
| 8. Hon. Mohamed Kanneh | |
| 9. Hon. Mohamed Sheriff Rahman-Coker | |

10. Hon. Abdul Karim Bangura
11. Hon. Peter Musa Moigua
12. Hon. Brima Mansaray
13. Hon. PC Alameen Kanneh

SECRETARIAT

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Chernor Sulaiman Bah | Lead Clerk |
| 2. Hawanatu Sanja | Assistant Lead Clerk |
| 3. Henry Thomas | Assistant Clerk |
| 4. Steven Lebbie | PBO Officer |

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, during the exercise, the following general observations were noted and recommendations proposed:

- i. The Committee observed there was lack of timely disbursement of MDAs' allocations.

The Committee recommends that, the Ministry of Finance try to release allocation on time

to MDAs in order for the MDAs to carry out their activities more effectively and efficiently.

- ii. The Committee observed that the delay in the release of allocations resulted in unfinished activities and projects that are rolled over to the current Financial Year. These roll over expenditures were not properly defended by most Vote Controllers, and could also be a recipe for miss-direction of public funds.
- iii. The Committee observes that most revenue generating MDAs fail to meet their revenue target.
- iv. **The Committee recommends that government MDAs through the Public Service Commission employ more women and promote more qualified women to senior positions.**
- v. The Committee observed that most MDAs do not have official institutional email. **The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Information assist all institution with official email.**

SPECIFIC FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

VOTE 142 -01 - NATIONAL PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Public Procurement Authority was established by the Public Procurement Act of 2004. This Act was repealed and replaced by the Public Procurement Act of 2016. The Authority was charged with the responsibility to perform oversight functions and advise the Government on procurement management. Its mandate is to ensure the full compliance of procuring entities, suppliers, contractors, consultants and other parties in Public Procurement in accordance with the Public Procurement Act 2016 and its regulation. Public Procurement is a significant means through which the Government meets its developmental needs through the supply of essential goods and services and is a significant national development tool.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2024 FY, the Authority's original budget submitted was **NLe 6,573,513**. As at September 2024, the Authority has received **NLe 4,237,250** from GoSL Regular Budget for quarter 1, 2 and 3. However, the Committee observed that the Authority received a Supplementary Budget of **NLe 4,144,440** from the first quarter and **NLe 1,771,092.13** from other revenues. The Authority for the period under review expended **NLe 8,552,231.15**.

Table: BUDGET ANALYSES FOR 2024 FY (NLe)

| No | Details | Amount NLe |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. | Original Budget Submitted to MoF | 6,573,513.00 |
| 2. | Budget Approved | 8,063,500 |
| 3. | Amount Received from GoSL Regular Budget and Supplementary Budget | 8,381,690 |
| 4. | Expenditure | 8,552,231.15 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee was informed by the Chief Executive Officer that the Authority gets low level of complaints from MDAs and Local Councils.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, the committee recommends that:

- i. The National Public Procurement Authority conducts training for all Head of Procurement on procuring procedures at the various Government institutions in line with the Public Procurement Act, 2016 and the Public Procurement Regulation.
- ii. Using comparative study with the Accountant General Department, that the National Public Procurement Authority attached staffs at all government institutions and help advice on efficient procuring procedures.
- iii. **That the 2025 budget of the Authority be approved.**

VOTE 105 – 01 - MIN. OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, His Excellency the President Rtd. Brig. Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone with the aim of making Sierra Leone a better place and revamping the Public Service and to help ushered in a new era of delivery efficiency and professionalism in public sector through institutional and regulatory reforms created the Ministry of Public Administration and Political Affairs. The President's proclamation created the Ministry of Public Administration and Political Affairs. It was created with a vision of efficiency, inclusiveness and accountable service in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2024 FY, the Ministry made an original budget submission of **NLe 13,478.24** but the sum of **NLe 4,284,300** was approved. For the year under review, the Ministry submitted a budget of **NLe 17,336.00** with a budget of **NLe 6,271,300** approved, which is an increase of **NLe 1,987,000** representing **68.3%** from the 2024 budget approved.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2024 FY, the Committee observed that the Ministry expended **NLe 406,719.53** on foreign travels and no local travel was conducted. The Committee encourages the Ministry to be mindful of this budget line and encourage more local travel and help promote political tolerance and the reformation of a professional public sector.

Table: BUDGET ANALYSES FOR 2024 FY (NLe)

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| 1. | Original Budget Submitted | 13,478.24 |
| 2. | Budget Approved | 4,284,300 |
| 3. | Amount Received from GoSL Regular Budget and Supplementary Budget | 3,052,700 |
| 4. | Expenditure | 3,052,700 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Permanent Secretary informed the Committee that the ministry has no official vehicle. He further informed the Committee that the ministry is challenged with accommodation as it occupied only $\frac{1}{4}$ of the 9th floor at Youyi Building at Brookfields.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee considered the allocation to the Ministry as adequate and recommends its approval.

VOTE 105 – 02 AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM [APRM]

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) was adopted by African Heads of State as a systematic Peer learning mechanism originating from the New Partnership for Africa's Development (**NEPAD**) foundational document.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, Sierra Leone joined the APRM on 8th July 2004. In February 2005 a Cabinet decision outlined the implementation strategy. Sierra Leone was Peer reviewed in January 2012 and has since presented four (4) Progress Reports.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the vision of the APRM is the full actualization of transformative leadership and practice for the Africa we all want and its mission is to promote the African Union's ideals and shared values of democratic governance and inclusive development by encouraging all Member state of the union to collaborate and voluntarily participate in the home grown, credible, rigorous independent and self – driven peer review process and implementation of its recommendations

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2024 FY, the institution made an original budget submission of **NLe 4,000,000.00** but the sum of **NLe 3,063,300** was approved. The institution had received **NLe 2,424,358.24** from both GoSL Regular Budget and Supplementary Budget and has expended **NLe 2,281,591.88** representing 94% of budget receipt. However, for the year under review, the institution submitted a budget of **NLe 6,396,400** with a budget of **NLe 5,069,000** approved. The Committee observed that the institution received an increase allocation of **NLe 2,005,700** representing **60.4%** from the 2024 budget.

Table: BUDGET ANALYSES FOR 2024 FY (NLe)

| | | |
|-----------|---|--------------|
| 1. | Original Budget Submitted | 4,000,000 |
| 2. | Budget Approved | 3,063,300 |
| 3. | Amount Received from GoSL Regular Budget and Supplementary Budget | 2,424,358.24 |
| 4. | Expenditure | 2,281,591.88 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2024 FY, the Committee observed that the institution only engaged on foreign travels and no local travel was conducted. The Committee encourages the institution with the increase in their allocation to engage also on local travel and engage more on stakeholders' engagement and help promote awareness about the institution and its role in the development of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee considered the allocation to the institution as adequate and recommends its approval.

VOTE 207 – 01 - SIERRA LEONE CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone Correctional Service (SLCS) was established by an Act of Parliament in September, 2014 with the primary aim of managing and organizing Correction Centers across the country. Its mission is to ensure the safe custody, welfare, rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. It exists as part of an integrated justice system to protect society by keeping inmates in secure and humane conditions. The Sierra Leone Correctional Service provides a secure, caring and reliable service to inmates and society. The Service upholds the fundamental Human Rights of Inmates in the discharge of their duties and strives to exceed the UN minimum standards for the treatment of Inmates.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2024 FY, the approved budget for the Service was **NLe 156,983,600**. However, the Ministry of Finance allocated a more substantial budget of **NLe 224, 840,738** an increase of **NLe 67,857,138** which represents **69.8%** increase. This however has been received by the SLCS. This, increase emphasizes Government commitment to improving the life of citizens in the correctional centers across the country and improve their Human Rights in line with international best practice and to effectively carry out the responsibility entrusted on the service.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2025 FY, the Sierra Leone Correctional Service submitted a budget of **NLe 193,150,300** with the actual allocation at **NLe 148,483,600**.

Table: BUDGET ANALYSES FOR 2024 FY (NLe)

| | | |
|-----------|--|----------------|
| 1. | Original Budget Submitted | 322,529,800 |
| 2. | Budget Approved | 156,983,600 |
| 3. | Amount Received from GoSL Regular Budget | 224,840,738 |
| 4. | Expenditure | 228,008,289.16 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2024 FY, the Committee observed that Sierra Leone Correctional Service established a revenue target of **NLe 150,000** but was only able to generate **NLe 7,400** representing . However, for the 2025 FY the Sierra Leone Correctional Service now set a revenue target of **NLe 180,000**, an **NLe 30,000** increase from the 2024 revenue. The Committee recommends that the Sierra Leone Correctional Service use the previous Financial Year target collected as a guide for the following year.

Table Revenue Target and Generation 2024

| No. | Revenue Target (NLe) | Actuals (NLe) | Parentage Achieved % |
|-----|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. | 150,000 | 7,400 | 4.9 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Accountant informed the Committee that Sierra Leone Correctional Service were unable to meet their revenue target because their workshop was burnt down during the April 29th 2020 incident at the Freetown Male Correctional Centre at Pademba Road where all machineries were housed.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends approval of the Sierra Leone Correctional Service budget.

VOTE 318 – 01 – MIN. OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, His Excellency the President Rtd Brig. Dr. Julius Maada Bio in demonstrating his commitment to protecting the Environment declared the Ministry of Environment a separate ministry from the Ministry of Lands. Furthermore, in protecting the citizens and the country the president in 2021 added the portfolio of Climate Change to the Ministry, thus, becoming the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for 2024 FY, the ministry submitted an original budget of **NLe 11,119.70** but was allocated the sum of **NLe 7,636.19** by the Ministry of Finance even though **NLe 9,696,300** was approved. The Ministry has received **NLe 3,479,407.77** from the Government of Sierra Leone Regular budget and a budget of **NLe 2,380,610.00** from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) received in the 2nd quarter of 2024. However, for the 2025 FY, the Committee observed that the ministry submitted to the Ministry of Finance a budget of **NLe 9,690,300** a budget that was approved by Parliament.

Table: BUDGET ANALYSES FOR 2024 FY (NLe)

| | | |
|-----------|--|--------------|
| 1. | Original Budget Submitted | 11,119.70 |
| 2. | Budget Approved | 9,696,300 |
| 3. | Amount Received from GoSL Regular Budget | 3,769,407.77 |
| 4. | Expenditure | 3,769,407.77 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for 2024 FY, the ministry made a target to generate the sum of **NLe 9,204,272.00** and was able to generate **NLe 533,380.00**

as at September, 2024. However, the Ministry set a more improved revenue target of **NLe 10,124,699.20** for the 2025 FY.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members the Committee observed that the ministry expended **NLe 1,465,527.77** from it **NLe 3,769,407.77** received, representing **39%** of budget received on foreign travels with no local travel.

Table Revenue Target and Generation 2024

| No. | Revenue | Revenue (NLe) | Target (NLe) | Actuals (NLe) | Parentage Achieved % |
|-----|---|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Transport permit for charcoal, poles andTimber➤ Power saw registration fees➤ Harvest licenses for power saw➤ Royalties (Gbalamnya) | 9,204,272.00 | 533,380.00 | 533,380.00 | 5.7 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee want to thank the President H.E. Rtd Brig. Dr. Julius Maada Bio for planting Five Million Trees, and recommends that the Honorable Speaker and Members of Parliament plant trees at their various district and help the president to save the Sierra Leone environment.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends the approval of the Ministry's allocation. However, considering the sensitive nature of the ministry, the Committee suggests a supplementary budget for the ministry to help the ministry establish regional offices.

VOTE 317 – 01 – SIERRA LEONE COUNCIL FOR POST GRADUATE COLLEGE OF

HEALTH SPECIALIST

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone Council for Postgraduate Colleges of Health Specialties was established by the Sierra Leone Council for Postgraduate Colleges of Health Specialties Act no. 17 of 2016. The objective of the institution for which the Council is established is to promote specialist education and training in medicine and dentistry, nursing and midwifery, pharmacy and other post graduate health specialists.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2024 FY, the institution submitted a budget of **NLe 3,281,700** which was approved by parliament. The Committee observed that only **NLe 738,400** was allocated to the institution by the Ministry of Finance and all was received by the institution in the 3rd quarter of 2024. For the 2025 FY, the institution submitted a budget of **NLe 4,097,800** but a budget of **NLe 3,281,700** was approved by Parliament. The Executive Director informed the Committee that a decrease in the institution's allocation will result to:

- Delay in promoting evidence based clinical practice for specialists such as Doctors, Nurses and Pharmacists
- Delay in the conduction of primary examination for colleges
- Delay in international accreditation

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends the approval of the Sierra Leone Council for Postgraduate College of Health Specialists. However, the Committee recommends a supplementary budget when available.

VOTE 319 – 02 – NATIONAL CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Commission for Children was

established by an Act of Parliament (the Child Rights Act no. 43 of 2007). The commission monitors and coordinate the implementation of the Convention and the Charter, organize and coordinate on an annual basis the holding of Child Parliament in order for children to articulate their views, advice government on policies and aimed at improving the condition and welfare of Children in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2024 FY, the Commission submitted a budget of **NLe 2,376,000** was submitted, however, an increased budget of **NLe 3,126,4000** was approved by parliament. However, the Commission received from the GoSL regular budget and Supplementary budget **NLe 3,107,000** with a budget of **NLe 2,942,000** already expended and a budget of **NLe 1,562,000** was received from donations/grants with a budget of **NLe 427,000** already expended. Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that the Commission budgeted **NLe 1,350,000** from its NLe 3,126,000 budget for Administrative Cost alone, which represents **57%** of its budget.

Table: BUDGET ANALYSES FOR 2024 FY (NLe)

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| 1. | Original Budget Submitted | 2,376,000 |
| 2. | Budget Approved | 3,126,400 |
| 3. | Amount Received from GoSL Regular Budget | 2,113,000 |
| 4. | Expenditure | 2,942,000 |

For the FY 2025, the commission submitted a budget of **NLe 7,499,000**; however a budget of **NLe 3,126,400** was approved by the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, the Committee recommends the approval of the Commission's budget. However, looking at the growing challenges faced by children, the committee recommends a supplementary budget for the commission.

VOTE 409 – 01 – MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, the Ministry of Trade (MTI) is mandated to develop policies and programs that will stimulate domestic, Regional and Global trade, private sector investment facilitation, and industry development. The ministry is responsible to advise Government on trade, Special Economic Zones, Regional and Global Trade Integration, Standards and Quality Infrastructure, SME's and Private sector development. It helps coordinate the development of Trade Support Program that reflects the policy objectives of the National Development Plan of Government.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the ministry has oversight responsibilities for the following institutions: Petroleum Regulatory Agency (PRA); Produce Monitoring Board (PMB); Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA); Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB); Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (SMEDA); Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company (SLPMC); Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC); Cooperatives (Coop); Sierra Leone Local Content Agency (SLLCA); Sierra Leone Business Forum (SLBF).

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry for the FY 2024, Parliament approved the sum of **NLe 6,958,700** to the ministry. The Committee observed that the ministry for the period under review received from the GoSL regular budget **NLe 10,672,968.8** representing **35%** increase from the budget approved by parliament. The Committee was informed by the accountant that the increase was a special request from the Ministry of Trade and Industry to the Ministry of Finance. The ministry further received **NLe 1,044,190.00** the ministry have

expended from the Government allocation **NLe 8,444,019.58** and **NLe 342, 387, 02** from donations and grants. For the 2025 FY, the ministry submitted a budget of 20,793.3, although **NLe 9,961.8** was approved by the Ministry of Finance, Parliament thus approved **NLe 9,958,700.**

Table: BUDGET ANALYSES FOR 2024 FY (NLe)

| | | |
|-----------|--|--------------|
| 1. | Original Budget Submitted | 11,884.9 |
| 2. | Budget Approved | 6,958,700 |
| 3. | Amount Received from GoSL Regular Budget | 10,672,968.8 |
| 4. | Expenditure | 8,444,019.58 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the FY 2024 the Committee observed that even though the Ministry generates revenue, these revenues are not received by the Ministry to rather pay into the Consolidated Revenue Fund thought Third Party collectors. However, the Permanent Secretary informed the Committee that for the Escrow Destination Inspection Scheme (Export) **30%** of revenue receipt is paid in the Consolidated Revenue Fund. For the Escrow Destination Inspection Scheme, Escrow Destination Inspection Scheme (Scanning), Escrow Destination Inspection Scheme (Kambia Border), Escrow Destination Inspection Scheme (Lungi Airport) Escrow Destination Inspection Scheme (Gendema Border) **20%** of revenue collected is paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that a significant amount of NLe 1,551,680.49 on foreign travel and no local travel was conducted.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends the approval of the ministry's allocation. However, the committee recommends a supplementary budget for the ministry where applicable.

Vote 409 – 02 – SIERRA LEONE STNDARDS BUREAU

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau was established by an Act of Parliament. The bureau started its operations on the 24th January 2000. The Act provides for the standardization of commodities and products. The bureau conduct tests on materials or products, undertake investigations where necessary into the materials of products in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Member, for the 2024 FY, the bureau submitted a budget of **NLe 9,600,000** to the Ministry of Finance, with a budget of **NLe 4,866,000** approved by parliament. However, the bureau only received a minimal allocation of **NLe 1,094,900** during the 2nd quarter, representing **22.5%** of the budget approved by parliament. It is observed that the bureau expended **NLe 3,087,543.58**, the difference from the allocation received the Executive Director noted was opening balance from the 2023 FY of **NLe 3,568,600**. For the 2025 FY, the bereau made a budget submission of **NLe 10,500,000** with an allocation of **NLe 3,866,000** approved by parliament.

Table: BUDGET ANALYSES FOR 2024 FY (NLe)

| | | |
|-----------|--|--------------|
| 1. | Original Budget Submitted | 9,600,000 |
| 2. | Budget Approved | 4,866,000 |
| 3. | Amount Received from GoSL Regular Budget | 1,094,900 |
| 4. | Expenditure | 3,087,543.58 |

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, the Committee observed that the bureau set revenue target of **NLe 17,295,000** but was only able to generate **NLe 2,412,457.62** which represents only **14%** of revenue target been able to be generated. With an increased revenue target of **NLe 17,500,000**, the Committee recommends that the bureau use performance from the previous financial year and data analysis when setting revenue target.

Table Revenue Target and Generation 2024

| No. | Revenue Target (NLe) | Actuals (NLe) | Parentage Achieved % |
|-----|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | 17,295,000 | 2,412,457.62 | 13.9 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, this is because of the low percentage fees charged for service provided by the bureau.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that the institution continue to face challenge in accessing fund. This however will affect the standardization and comfortability of good and service monitoring and inspection by the institution. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends that the bureau, in agreement with the Ministry of Finance and the National Revenue Authority set an agreed withholding percentage from the revenue generated for the institution.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends the approval of the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau budget.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, with the critical objective of the institution in helping to provide the necessary assurance that goods and service in Sierra Leone are of acceptable quality, the Committee recommends a supplementary allocation for the institution.

VOTE 409 - 03 - DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVES

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Department of Cooperatives is a unit within the Ministry of Trade and Industry, established through the Cooperative Act of 1977. Its mandate is to establish, promote and supervise groups of people who voluntarily associate to do business using the cooperative business enterprise model in order to better their lives. It also provides technical support to cooperatives in terms of administration, business development and market orientation.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, In 2024 FY, the Department's original budget submitted was **NLe 2,385,000**. As at September 2024, the Department has only received **NLe 971,000** from GoSL Regular Budget. The meagre sum allocated was observed to continually thwart the achievements of set objectives, such as communications, outreach programs, research and documentation, and trainings.

Table: BUDGET ANALYSES FOR 2024 FY (NLe)

| | | |
|-----------|--|---------|
| 1. | Original Budget Submitted | 2,385 |
| 2. | Budget Approved | 2,158 |
| 3. | Amount Received from GoSL Regular Budget | 971,000 |
| 4. | Expenditure | 971,000 |

During the Committee, some honourable Members confessed their experiences with the Cooperatives in the 70s and 80 explaining how their parents sponsored their education through cooperatives like cassava, potato, cacao and coffee, palm oil and nut oil among many others. They added that the cooperatives at that time ushered in livelihoods, jobs and income in rural communities that was largely responsible for limited rural urban migration.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Chairman, honourable members, the committee recommends that

- *The CORPERATIVE ACT of 1977 be reviewed or repeal.*
- *The Committee encourages the Registrar of Cooperatives to continue to tap into donor partners and global cooperatives organizations for support.*
- ***The budget allocation of the Department be approve***

VOTE 409 – 04 – SIERRA LEONE PRODUCE MARKETING COMPANY

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company (SLPMC) was established by an Act of parliament in 2009 to replace the former Sierra Leone Producing Marketing Board (SLPMB). The SLPMC, which became fully operational in 2012, is a fully owned Government entity, supervised by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2024 FY, the Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of **NLe 1,131,600** to the Company for the FY 2024. Review of Financial documents revealed that the Company received only **NLe 509,000** representing **55%** of the allocated budget. The Company further received **NLe 1,550,400** from other revenue (produce revenue).

Table: BUDGET ANALYSES FOR 2024 FY (NLe)

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| 1. | Original Budget Submitted | 3,864,591 |
| 2. | Budget Approved | 1,131,600 |
| 3. | Amount Received from GoSL Regular Budget | 509,000 |
| 4. | Expenditure | 509,000 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Company set a revenue target of **NLe 4,554,323.55** from Produce Revenue and Rental Income and was able to generate **NLe 3,804,001**. However, the company now has a revenue target of **NLe 11,519,144.75**.

Table Revenue Target and Generation 2024

| No. | Revenue | Revenue (NLe) | Target | Actuals (NLe) | Parentage Achieved % |
|-----|-----------------|------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Produce Revenue | NIL | 1,594,000 | Not Applicable | |
| 2. | Rental Income | 4,554,323.55 | | 2,021,000 | 44 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends the approval of the proposed budgetary allocation of the Company. However, looking at the critical role of the Company in the government's flagship program of "Feed Salone" the Committee recommends that a supplementary allocated for the company.

VOTE 409 – 05 – SIERRA LEONE PRODUCE MONITORING BOARD

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone Produce Monitoring Board was established by an Act of Parliament in 2013 to monitor the production, processing and marketing of produce and for other related matters. The Board shall also have the mandate to regulate, promote and

improve the marketing of produce in order to optimize the export earning of farmers; encourage the production of quality produce in order to meet international standards; ensure that farmers are paid fair prices for their produce by periodically announcing the indicating prices among others.

Mr. Chairman Hon. Members, **for 2024 FY**, the Boards budget analysis is shown in the table below:

Table: BUDGET ANALYSES FOR 2024 FY (NLe)

| | | |
|-----------|--|--------------|
| 1. | Original Budget Submitted | 3,621,199.90 |
| 2. | Budget Approved | 3,621,200 |
| 3. | Amount Received from GoSL Regular Budget | 814,000 |
| 4. | Expenditure | 893,474.80 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, with regards revenue generation, the Board generated revenue of **NLe 24,191,838.6** in **2024**, thereby exceeding its original target of **NLe 16,241,353**. In this regard, the Board revenue target for the **FY 2025** is **NLe 25,000,000**.

Table Revenue Target and Generation 2024

| No. | Revenue Target (NLe) | Actuals (NLe) | Parentage Achieved % |
|-----|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. | 16,241,353 | 24,191,838.6 | 100 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that the Board's allocation is adequate and recommends its approval.

VOTE 409 – 06 – NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMISSION OF SIERRA LEONE

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Consumer Protection Commission is responsible to protect and promote consumer welfare and for the overall benefits of all Sierra Leonean. Monitoring the operation of consumer markets in Sierra Leone and consider how they may be improved for the long – term interests of consumers.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for **2024 FY**, Parliament approved the sum of **NLe 1,405,300** for the Commission. However, as at September 2024, the Commission had received **NLe 820,000** from the GoSL Regular Budget and Supplementary budget and **NLe 300,000** for the 4th quarter of 2023. With an expenditure of **NLe 954.54** for the year under review.

Table: BUDGET ANALYSES FOR 2024 FY (NLe)

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| 1. | Original Budget Submitted | 4,782.50 |
| 2. | Budget Approved | 1,405,300 |
| 3. | Amount Received from GoSL Regular Budget and Supplementary Budget | 820.00 |
| 4. | Expenditure | 954.54 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, **For 2025 FY**, the budget to be approved by Parliament is **NLe 2,905,300**. The Committee noted an increase in the Commission's original budget submission from **NLe 1,405,300 in 2024 FY** to the actual budget to be approved in the sum of **NLe 2,905,300 IN 2025 FY**. With 2025 registering **51.6%** increase from the previous financial year approved by parliament.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends for the approval of the Commission's budget.

VOTE 426-01 - SIERRA LEONE SEED CERTIFICATION AGENCY

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, Sierra Leone Seed Certification Agency is a government entity under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. It is the National seed quality control and certification agency of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2024 FY, the Sierra Leone Seed Certification Agency's original budget submitted to the Ministry of Finance was **NLe 3,480,400** and all was however approved by Parliament to the Agency. As at September 2024, the Agency only received **NLe 1,566,200** from GoSL Regular Budget in the 2nd and 3rd Quarter and **NLe 1,545,906** from the SLARiS PROJECT. The Agency has expended the sum of **NLe 3,537,397.73** from Government Allocations and the SLRSA PROJECT for the period under review.

Table: BUDGET ANALYSES FOR 2024 FY (NLe)

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Original Budget Submitted | 3,480,400 |
| 2. | Budget Approved | 3,480,400 |

| | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| 3. | Amount Received from GoSL Regular Budget | 1,566,200 |
| 4. | Expenditure | 1,991,491.73 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the 2024 FY, the Sierra Leone Seed Certification Agency set a revenue target to generate a sum of **NLe 525,000** from the following sources: Registration & Licenses – **NLe 200,000**; Quality Control & Certification - **NLe 175,000**; and Seed Testing Activities – **NLe 150,000**. However, as at September 2023, the Agency actually generated **NLe 135,866** from Registration & Licenses, nothing was generated from Quality Control & Certification and Seed Testing Activities generated **NLe 72,434**. However, a revenue target of **NLe 595,000** has been set by the agency for the FY 2025.

Table Revenue Target and Generation 2024

| No. | Revenue | Revenue Target (NLe) | Actuals (NLe) | Parentage Achieved % |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Registration & Licenses | 200,000 | 135,866 | |
| 2. | Quality Control & Certification | 175,000 | 0 | |
| 3. | Seed Testing Activities | 150,000 | 72,434 | |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for 2025 FY, the Agency submitted to the Ministry of Finance an original budget of **NLe 3,782,200** and a budget allocation of **NLe 3,480,400** has been approved.

Key Findings:

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee noted the Agency's failure to generate revenue from Quality Control & Certification for three consecutive Financial Years including

2023 due to seed actors' non-compliance with regulatory requirements, as reported by the Commission during the sitting.

Recommendations:

Mr. Chairman, Honourable members, the Committee recommended that

- The Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture conduct and oversight to investigate the reason for the non-compliance.
- **In the light of the foregoing, the Committee considers the 2025 budget of NLe 3,480,400 adequate and recommends for its approval.**

VOTE 701 - PUJEHUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Local Government Act no 14 of 2004 gives Local Councils in Sierra Leone the mandate to promote development in various localities. They are charge with the responsibility of promoting the welfare of the people in their localities with fund from the central government and through other sources such as donor and grants. Pujehun District is divided in twenty four localities as such there are twenty four local councillors and four Paramount Chiefs as Ex-Officio Members and they are headed by the District Chairperson and the Deputy District Chairperson.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, Pujehun District Council made a budget submission of **NLe 24,695,536.26** for 2024 FY to the Ministry of Finance. The Committee observed that this Council received **NLe 7, 036, 526, 00** from GoSL regular budget. The Committee further observed that Council received, as donations/grants of **NLe 2,932,650.00** from EU, **NLe 1,985,681.06** from the Road Maintenance Fund Authority and **NLe 216,000.00** from the Free Quality Bus. From its own source revenue, council received **NLe 3,270,335.00**. Council

has expended a total amount of **NLe 15,437,819.78** from the aforementioned sources of funds including GoSL allocation.

Table: BUDGET ANALYSES FOR 2024 FY (NLe)

| | | |
|-----------|--|---------------|
| 1. | Original Budget Submitted | 24,695,536.26 |
| 2. | Budget Approved | 24,695,536.26 |
| 3. | Amount Received from GoSL Regular Budget | 7,036,526.00 |
| 4. | Expenditure | 6,205,629.37 |

As a revenue generating Council, the Committee observed that **NLe 3,270,335.00** was collected as own source revenue out of a revenue target of **NLe 3,565,573.66**. This amount was collected from various revenue streams, such as, businesses registration, property rate, local tax, market dues, and business license, others (fees and charges). Council has however expanded their revenue target in 2025 FY by **11%** from **NLe 3,565,573.66** in the 2024 FY to **NLe 4,000,000.00** in 2025 FY.

Table Revenue Target and Generation 2024

| No. | Revenue | Revenue Target (NLe) | Actuals (NLe) | Parentage Achieved % |
|-----|---|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Taxation Revenue and Non Taxation Revenue | 3,565,573.66 | 3,270,335,00 | 91.7 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, discussing the challenges that inhibited Council from meeting its revenue target, the CA disclosed that inadequate mobility to go to the remote places, excessive tax evasion by property owners and the unwillingness of Paramount Chiefs to

share revenue collected in their chiefdoms undermined Council's ability to meet or exceed revenue target.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee recommends that the political heads of Local Councils should be signatories to the account of their council.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that the Pujehun Council budget allocation is adequate and therefore recommend its approval.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, the Committee hereby recommends that the Report of the Appropriation Sub-Committee No. 5 be adopted by this House, and that the Budget Vote Heads including Sub-Heads of MDAs as listed below stand part of the schedule in respect of budgetary provisions for the Financial Year 2025.

Table 15: MDAs Account Heads and their Allocations for 2025 FY:

| Vote | Div. | Vote Description | Amount [NLe] |
|-------------|-------------|---|---------------------|
| 142 | 01 | National Public Procurement Authority (NPPA) | 8,063,500 |
| 105 | 01 | Min. of Public Administration and Political Affairs | 6,271,300 |
| 105 | 02 | African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) | 5,069,000 |
| 207 | 01 | Sierra Leone Correctional Service | 148,483,600 |
| 318 | 01 | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change | 9,696,300 |
| 317 | 01 | Sierra Leone Council for Post Graduate College of Health Specialist | 3,281,700 |
| 319 | 02 | National Children's Commission | 3,126,400 |
| 409 | 01 | Ministry of Trade and Industry | 9,958,700 |
| 409 | 02 | Sierra Leone Standard Bureau | 3,866,000 |
| 409 | 03 | Department of Cooperatives | 2,058,000, |

| | | | |
|-----|----|--|------------|
| 409 | 04 | Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company | 1,131,600 |
| 409 | 05 | Sierra Leone Monitoring Board | 3, 421,200 |
| 409 | 06 | Consumer Protection commission | 2,905,300 |
| 426 | 01 | Sierra Leone Seed Certification Agency | 3,480,400 |
| 701 | 18 | Pujehun District Council | 14,933,174 |

SIGNED

N. Lebbie

HON. NENEH LEBBIE CHAIRPERSON

APPROPRIATION SUB-COMMITTEE

No.5

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable AKK, do you want to say something?

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, my interest has always been on Standards Bureau, and we should not down play the role Standards Bureau is playing. When it comes to the standards of what we eat or even sell in the market, the situation around Standards Bureau is very miserable, Madam Minister. And looking at this current allocation for an Institution that does not have vehicles to even conduct test on products, it is worse off. Their ability to go around checking for expired goods is nothing to write home about. You go to the Quay, they do not have the right equipment to do their testing, and when you look at the allocation put for them, I realize that we deserve to treat this institution more seriousness.

Mr Speaker, we depend on Standard Bureau for our lives. Our kids go to schools and they drink all kinds of water, and this is the institution that is meant to test the water we are producing or importing to Sierra Leone. Now see what has been allocated to that Institution, Madam Minister, every year, one or two MPs in this Parliament would talk against Standards Bureau, but now we understand the secret why the Bureau has not been effective. Madam Minister, with this allocation, Standards Bureau cannot even move a fly. This is not just an institution that is gate-keeping our health, it is also a revenue generating institution. I have said many times in this Well that the Institutions that are meant to generate income must be given the require attention and support by the Government, or else we are killing those Institutions. Go everywhere today you will see all kinds of diseases are all over; Malaria, Typhoid, etc. Typhoid is caused by, **S.O 2**, '*Dorty Wata*'. Even though we have more sachet water in the city today, we still have people complaining about Typhoid, why? The Institution that is regulating those producing water does not have the equipment, and the allocation given to them is worse off.

Mr Chairman, Honorable Members, let me move down to the Correctional Service. Mr Speaker, the allocation to the Correctional Service is good, but one of the problems we face is the delay in the disbursement of these funds. As we speak, the Suppliers of the

Correctional Service are almost downing tools today, except for the intervention of the Top Management team that is meeting with them again. The people who are in Correctional Centers or in prisons do not need to starve for what they eat. Yes, they have committed crimes against the state for which they have been held down, but they should not suffer again for what they eat; basic things must be there, in those Correctional Centers. Mr Chairman, we have very small detention facilities in this country, and to even run them is a problem again. With such allocations, we must realize that some of these Institutions are not revenue generating Ministries or Agencies; they depend on the state to run them. Mr Speaker, it is almost four to five years that the Correctional Officers do not have new uniform- it is worse off! So Mr Chairman, this is just an appeal for what has been allocated to them to be disbursed to meet the challenging conditions they work in. Correctional Officers are Prisoners themselves.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, when I looked at Vote **426** which talks about Seeds Certification Agency, and saw the allocation given to the Agency, I begin to imagine whether we are indeed working towards ensuring that the Food Security works. Mr Speaker, when you look at the allocations we put to those Institutions, you would not wonder why we do not get results. How do we glamour with this? *'Oh this is what the President wants us to achieve; if we do not achieve this we cannot have food security, if we do not feed ourselves we cannot progress as a nation'* - but look at what is allocated. This is a sad one Mr Chairman, and we must look at some of these things with the required seriousness. We must not politicize everything to the point that we lose focus on what we really need to achieve. Food sufficiency is a strong pillar of a nation. This is why we say sometimes that these things will not succeed because we look at the allocation linings. Now we depend on the progress of all of these issues around the Agriculture sector on Donors, thank you, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Honourable Member for your contribution. Yes, Honourable Kellie, do you want to say something?

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Yes, Mr Chairman, thank you very much. Mr Chairman, one thing that caught my eyes is the fact that the Committee observed that most revenue generating MDAs failed to meet their revenue target, but there is no mention of those MDAs that have failed to meet their targets. And if they failed in that direction, what recommendations is the Committee making? We all know that these targets are not set for fun; when Institutions are given authority to generate income they have to go all out to ensure that they generate the income because that eases the burden on the Ministry of Finance. But if they are given the powers and they do not excise it and failed to collect revenue, we want to know why they have not met their targets, and what recommendations is the Committee making? Thank you, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Deputy Speaker, you have the Floor.

HON. IBRAHIM TAWA CONTEH: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, I think my colleagues have raised sensitive issues; the one from the Honourable Kellie is a very critical issue and it is something that Parliament should clamp down on. These are the reasons why we should not allow certain Votes to be passed in this Budget. Agency that are generating revenues for government are not treating their revenue generation role seriously, simply because they have allocations in the Budget, and those allocations are used to offset their expenditure. And most times what they do is to eye mark revenue generated by them in the end. Even though they did not meet their targets, they will use such revenue to ensure that they offset expenditures that are not in there Budget.

So firstly, they do extra budgetary spending without the approval of Parliament. And secondly, they would have summited their Budget Allocation to the Ministry of Finance with specific sub-heads and sub-expenditure heads, indicating revenue lines; they would not meet their revenue but they would extend beyond the approved expenditure

lines that were approved by the House. That is a critical issue and it is an issue that I think this House should treat seriously and withhold budget of Revenue Generating Agency that are not meeting their revenue targets.

Mr Chairman, in my last submission I mentioned three Agencies. If you look at these three Agencies; NatCA for example, between January and October generated **NLe271Mln**, and Government gave back to them **NLe235Mln**. Mr Chairman what does that mean? It meant that the money that the government reallocated from the revenue generated by NatCA is twice the amount allocated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all the Missions that Sierra Leone has across the world. That is one way by which the revenue stream is strangulated, and Agencies or MDAs that are vital to the function of the State are starved of resources that should have been used to booster social services.

Mr Chairman, I am also happy that we have the PRA Bill coming before us. We should look at their financial standing, and we should look at the financial allocation because between January and October, from the records we have in the Ministry of Finance, they had generated **NLe88Mln** and they have retained **NLe87Mln**. They retained this money for their Order Charges Budget; the same Order Charges that Parliament would receive **NLe2mIn** for, and they are retaining **NLe88mIn**. This is Parliament against NatCA, or a whole Arm of Government against an Agency setup by the Arm of Government itself; these are the challenges that government faces.

Mr Chairman, another issue is the issue of Seed Certification. I think the point is valid, but on the other hand the Seed Certification Agency [SLECA] is also a Revenue Generating Agency; they are generating revenues from License; Registration, Licenses renewal and all of these Seed Suppliers, Pesticides Suppliers and Importers. So they generate revenue by themselves and those revenues are not paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund. So, it is part of the Allocation that they receive, therefore if you put

together the revenue they generated and what they received, you would realize that they are receiving money and we are seeing nothing.

Similarly Mr Chairman, for the Standards Bureau, it would interest you to note that in the Plat Format or the Plat Prize for fuel, there was a **0.03%** Allocation per Metric Ton for every fuel imported in this country and given to Standards Bureau. So if you take **0.03%** and multiply it by **270,000** Metric Ton per year, you would have over **\$2Mln**. What are they doing with it? They are having it; it is still in the Plat Format. So as Parliament, we have to open our eyes, we have to dig deeper, and we have to ensure that we checkmate this Agencies on how they are using these government monies that are given to them to meet social services, particularly the Standards Bureau. Standards Bureau is to confirm that the standard of fuel that we receive in Sierra Leone is compatible to that supply to Ghana, Nigeria and to other countries in West Africa; they are to confirm that the standard and quality of water that we consume daily is up to the standard and up to the level that cannot lead the spread of cholera and other water borne diseases.

So Mr Chairman, I think what we should enforce is what the Honourable Kellie submitted; withhold budget from Agencies that are meant to generate revenues and invite them to come, maybe under the Public Interest Committee and explain in detail, line by line, the Budget submitted for revenue generation for the year under review so that we can see how they have managed to meet or not meet target, and why should they receive new allocation- that is just my solution, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Madam Minister.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to appreciate the comment by the Deputy Speaker, as he has addressed most of the questions raised. But just to go back on some observations that I have in terms of the lack of timely disbursement of funds, let me make this comment.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, as you all know, disbursement of funds to MDAs is subject to our revenues collected in the Treasury. In terms of employment for more qualified women, I cannot agree with you more, Honourable Member, and I want to assure you that the Public Services Commission is currently working on that to make sure that women are represented in higher positions. I fully also agree on the comment about having the Ministry of Information to have an official email to all MDAs; I believe that also is on course.

In relation to the Standards Bureau to be considered for Supplementary Budget, that one is also noted, but again, with the caveat that we fully understand the revenues that are collected on behalf of government. We are also in discussions with some of these institutions; Standards Bureau and other Agencies who do collect revenues to see if, maybe greater percentage can be retained by them to make sure that their needs are met, and the services they perform can be done properly. As for the Correctional Services, their allocation is determined based on their utilization, and we prioritize the funds for them.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the following Votes stand part of the schedule.

Table 1: MDAs Account Heads and their Allocations for 2025 FY:

| Vote | Div. | Vote Description | Amount [NLe] |
|-------------|-------------|--|---------------------|
| 142 | 01 | National Public Procurement Authority (NPPA) | 8,063,500 |

| | | | |
|------|----|---|-------------|
| 105 | 01 | Min. of Public Administration and Political Affairs | 6,271,300 |
| 105 | 02 | African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) | 5,069,000 |
| 207 | 01 | Sierra Leone Correctional Service | 148,483,600 |
| 318 | 01 | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change | 9,696,300 |
| 317 | 01 | Sierra Leone Council for Post Graduate College of Health Specialist | 3,281,700 |
| 319 | 02 | National Children's Commission | 3,126,400 |
| 409 | 01 | Ministry of Trade and Industry | 9,958,700 |
| 409 | 02 | Sierra Leone Standard Bureau | 3,866,000 |
| 409 | 03 | Department of Cooperatives | 2,058,000, |
| 409 | 04 | Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company | 1,131,600 |
| 409 | 05 | Sierra Leone Monitoring Board | 3, 421,200 |
| 409 | 06 | Consumer Protection commission | 2,905,300 |
| 426 | 01 | Sierra Leone Seed Certification Agency | 3,480,400 |
| 701` | 18 | Pujehun District Council | 14,933,174 |

[QUESTION PROPOSED, PUT AND AGREED TO]

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, prepare to take the seat.

The House stood down at 6:50pm and resumed at 6:55pm

THE CHAIRMAN [Dept. Speaker, Hon. Ibrahim Tawa Conteh]: Let go.

GROUP NINE

VOAT HEADS

11401, 14501, 30501, 30901, 40401, 41001, 30501, 41301, 41400, 11003, 31101, 13101, 10701 [*various*], and 10701 to stand part of the schedule.

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

Table 1: MDAs Account Heads and their Allocations for 2024

| Vote | Div. | Vote Description | Amount [NLe] |
|------|------|--|-----------------|
| 144 | 01 | Human Right Commission of Sierra Leone | 4,994,900.00 |
| 145 | 01 | Right to Access Information Commission | 4,029,100.00 |
| 305 | 01 | Ministry of Social Welfare | 17,871,400.00 |
| 309 | 01 | Dental and Medical Board | 974,600.00 |
| 414 | 01 | Ministry of Water Resources & Sanitation | 19, 464,200.00 |
| 410 | 01 | National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) | 5,500,000.00 |
| 315 | 01 | Teaching Hospitals Complex Administration | 2,602,800.00 |
| 413 | 01 | Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission | 1,358,000.00 |
| 139 | 0 | Guma Valley Water Company | 2,602,800.00 |
| 414 | 00 | Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO) | 828,837.00 |
| 110 | 03 | EGTC. Elect. Generation & Transmission Company | 1,631,600.00 |
| 311 | 01 | National Water Resources Management Agency | 6,526,500.00 |
| 131 | 01 | Revenue Appellate Board | 1,631,600.00 |
| 107 | 01 | Bo District Council | 12, 563, 500.00 |
| 107 | 01 | Tonkolili District Council | 19, 848,706.00 |

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

THE SPEAKER: Honorable Members, I realize we have taken only six Reports out of twelve, and these Reports have been circulated to all Members of Parliament through their Tablets. So as such, I expect Members to have gone through the Reports Committee by Committee, and I would encourage starting from this Committee, for the Committee Chairman to lay the Report, and if there are adverse Recommendations, you take us through those adverse Recommendations only. After those Recommendations, you go through Vote Head by Vote Head and lay the Report. And I would solicit a

debate; if there is none, I move and we move to the next Group. So where is the Chairman? Leader, do you want to take the Motion for that?

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Yes, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I move that the Chairmen of various Committees lay their Reports because all the Reports are in our Tablets before us. So I move that the resolution by the Chairman be adopted.

THE SPEAKER: Any Seconder to that Motion?

HON. MUSA FOFANA: I so second, Mr Chairman.

[QUESTION PROPOSED, PUT AND AGREED TO]

[The Motion moved by Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara was carried]

HON. TOM ISAAC TUCKER: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I hereby submit the Report of the Sub-Appropriation Committee Nine [9] on the Recurrent and Development Budget Estimate, 2025.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the 2024 National Budget with the theme, '*IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND WELBEING OF SIERRA LEONEANS*' undoubtedly is a continuation of the 2023 financial statement in which hosts of catalogued commitments were partly achieved and the others rolled over to 2024. The external environment has not been favourable as the recovery of the global economy is losing momentum due to the slowdown of the Chinese economy, disruptions of energy and food markets caused by the Russia-Ukraine crisis and the impact of tighter monetary policy to fight global inflation. The situation is being exacerbated by heightened geo-political tensions, economic fragmentation and climate change risk. Whilst acknowledging that the 2023 budgetary allocations to various sectors have shown

substantial increment, the Committee noted a dismal performance of MDAs as most programmes were uncompleted partly due to the geo-political tensions, economic fragmentation, climate change risk and late submission of budgetary allocations. As this 2024 Appropriation deviates from the then Select Committee Approach that gives authority to each Select Committee to carefully follow up on the activities of their MDAs through oversight and followed the usual norms that is groups of Ministries Department and Agencies assigned to a sub-appropriation group.

The Committee wishes to acknowledge the good work of all Members of Parliament and Staff who painstakingly put efforts together to produce this report.

1. MEMBERSHIP FOR SUB - COMMITTEE [9]

- 1. HON. TOM TUCKER ISSIC- CHAIRMAN**
- 2. HON. UNPHA SORIE GBASSAY KOROMA- DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**
3. HON. ERNEST DURA KOROMA
4. HON. PC DESMOND MAHAGEI KARGOBAI II
5. HON. MAHMOUD KAMARA
6. HON. P.C ALHAJI KANDEH PARIA KAWALLEH
7. HON. IDRIS SAHID KAMARA
8. HON. P.C. MARRAH ALIE BALANSAMA 111
9. HON. ALICE KORNYA SANDY

10. HON. ISHMAEL SANKOH YILLAH

11. HON. RTD. CAPTAIN SYLVESTER ARNOLD MAXWELL BOIMA

SUPPORT STAFF:

1. Mannah Berewa –**Lead Clerk**
2. Margaret Coomber-**Assistant Lead Clerk**
3. Yattah Kabba
4. Jefferina Lahai

2. SCOPE OF THE EXERCISE

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, this Report covers fifteen 15 Ministries, Departments and Agencies as listed in the 2024 Appropriation Act and distributed by the Chairman of the Finance Committee. The hearings on the 2024 Budget lasted for four days and covered the following Ministries Department and Agencies:

- **Human Right Commission of Sierra Leone**
- **Right to Access Information Commission**
- **Ministry of Social Welfare**
- **Dental and Medical Board**
- **Ministry of Water Resources**
- **National Protected Area Authority (NPAA)**
- **Teaching Hospitals Complex Administration**
- **Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission**
- **Guma Valley Water Company**
- **Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO)**
- **Electricity Generation & Transmission Company**
- **National Water Resources Management Agency**

- **Revenue Appellate Board**
- **Bo District Council**
- **Tonkolili District Council**

3. PROCEDURE

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee sent out questionnaires to all Vote Controllers of Ministries, Departments and Agencies mentioned above for detailed information on how the budgetary allocations and all monies that were received for and on behalf of Government of Sierra Leone for the Fiscal Year 2024 were expended. Vote Controllers were requested to respond to questions relating to their budgetary allocations, highlighting their challenges, proffering solutions and stating how they have been able to carry out their respective mandates in order to achieve set goals and objective for the next financial year.

4. OBJECTIVES

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

- To examine the absorptive capacity of the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies and ascertain whether they were able to prudently manage and utilize their budgetary allocations and other resources allocated to them;
- To determine whether Revenue generating Ministries, Departments and Agencies were able to meet their revenue targets;
- To determine whether the expenditures of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the last fiscal year conformed to established financial rules and regulations;
- To examine the strengths and weaknesses in budget preparation and performance of Ministries, Departments and Agencies with the view of improving on the appropriation process;

- To provide Justification for any increase or decrease in the allocations for a given Financial Year;
- To ascertain whether budgetary resources were equitably distributed;
- To critically examine the Ministries, Departments Agencies recurrent and capital budget estimates and make recommendations for general debate in the House;
- To highlight challenges or constraints faced by the Ministries Department Agencies and make appropriate recommendations to address them; and
- To enhance transparency and accountability in the management of public funds.

5. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, having critically examined the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies under its purview, the Sub- Appropriation Committee Nine [9], draws the attention of the House to the following general observations and recommendations:

- Most Ministries Department and Agencies interviewed by Sub-Appropriation Committee 9 did provide their proposed action plans for 2025. As reported during the 2024 budgetary approval in this House, this practice would enhance the capacity of Parliamentary Oversight Committees in their effort to evaluate progress in the implementation of the proposed activities of MDAs.

The Committee recommends that going forward; MDAs should include the proposed action plan for the following year in their sub-appropriation questionnaires submitted to the House of Parliament.

- Most MDAs stated that the first and second quarter allocations have been disbursed

however most reported that the third and fourth quarter allocations were not received.

The Committee recommends that for the MDAs to effectively and efficiently implement their programmes and projects, funds and budgetary allocations must be disbursed as required and on time.

- The two Councils interviewed were unable to adequately deliver services to their respective localities as a result of poor own source revenue collection.

The Committee recommends that Local Councils sensitize taxpayers on the need to pay taxes. The Committee further recommends that councils must employ modern methods of collecting taxes and put measures in place to ensure that those involved in revenue collection meet the set targets.

- Delay in the release of allocations resulted in unfinished activities and projects that are rolled over to the next Financial Year. These rolled over expenditures were not properly defended by some Vote Controllers and could also be a recipe for mis-direction of public funds. Whilst the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance improves on their timely release of funds to MDAs, the Parliamentary Committee on Finance should investigate how rollover expenditures of MDAs are expended for the purposes of Transparency and Accountability.

Table 1: MDAs Account Heads and their Allocations for 2024

| Vote | Div. | Vote Description | Amount [NLe] |
|-------------|-------------|---|----------------------|
| 144 | 01 | Human Right Commission of Sierra Leone | 4,994,900.00 |
| 145 | 01 | Right to Access Information Commission | 4,029,100.00 |
| 305 | 01 | Ministry of Social Welfare | 17,871,400.00 |
| 309 | 01 | Dental and Medical Board | 974,600.00 |

| | | | |
|------------|-----------|---|----------------------------|
| 414 | 01 | Ministry of Water Resources & Sanitation | 19, 464,200.00 |
| 410 | 01 | National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) | 5,500,000.00 |
| 315 | 01 | Teaching Hospitals Complex Administration | 2,602,800.00 |
| 413 | 01 | Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission | 1,358,000.00 |
| 139 | 0 | Guma Valley Water Company | 2,602,800.00 |
| 414 | 00 | Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO) | 828,837.00 |
| 110 | 03 | EGTC. Elect. Generation & Transmission Company | 1,631,600.00 |
| 311 | 01 | National Water Resources Management Agency | 6,526,500.00 |
| 131 | 01 | Revenue Appellate Board | 1,631,600.00 |
| 107 | 01 | Bo District Council | 12, 563, 500.00 |
| 107 | 01 | Tonkolili District Council | 19, 848,706.00 |
| | | Conclusion | |
| | | | |

**2. VOTE: [144-01]- HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF SIERRA LEONE
(HRCSL)**

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) was established in 2000 through an Act of Parliament. Its establishment was highly influenced by the recommendations of the Lome Peace Agreement of 1999 and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as contained in its Report.

In the 2024 fiscal year, the Commission embarked on the following expenditure drives to effectively run the institution: administration costs, programme support, for which the Commission actually spent **NLe 2,487, 598.00**.

Budget analysis for the 2024 FY is shown in the table below

| No. | Details | Total NLe |
|------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2024 | (829,256.79) |
| 2 | Budget approved | 4,994,900.00 |
| 3 | Actual budget allocated | 3, 747,750.00 |
| 4 | Actual budget received | 5,765,711.00 |
| 4 | Actual expenditure | 6,195,381.00 |
| | Closing Bank balance as at Sept. 2024 | (1,258,926.79) |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Commission submitted a budget of **NLe4, 958,380.00** for the 2024 FY to the Ministry of Finance and **NLe4, 994,900.00** was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2024, the Commission only received **NLe2, 247,750.00** from the Ministry of Finance for the 2nd and 3rd Quarters. Donation/Grant/Loan amounted to the sum of **NLe3, 125,791.00** and other revenues amounted to the sum of **NLe 392,170.00**. The Committee observed a huge decrease of **55%** in the Commission's actual budget received from the GoSL Regular Budget.

Key Findings

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

- ❖ **Inadequate budget disbursement by the Ministry of Finance**
- ❖ **Inconsistent budgetary allocation to the Commission**
- ❖ **Late disbursement of funds resulting to slow response of the Commission to respond existing and emerging human rights issues.**
- ❖ **Non replacement of obsolete assets (vehicle, future, equipment)**
- ❖ **Inadequate office space to host its staff (HRCSL has lands in Kenema and Makeni but without a building)**
- ❖ **Low cooperation from government ministries with regards request for information on human rights issues.**
- ❖ **Inadequate personnel due to the moratorium on recruitment**

Financial Year 2025

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, with a budget submission of **NLe 4, 994,900.00** to the Ministry of Finance for the 2025 fiscal year, the Commission was, however, given a budget ceiling of **NLe5, 746,700.00 .00**. The sum of **NLe4, 994, 900.00** has been approved by the Ministry of Finance. The Committee also noted a decrease of **13.08%** in the Commission's approved budget. According to the Vote Controller, if this amount is however received and wholly released on time, most of the challenges that the Commission has been encountering will be addressed.

Recommendations

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, in view of the above and considering the importance of this Commission in maintaining and promoting good governance which is a key democratic tenant, the Committee recommends the following:

- ❖ **Increased budgetary allocation to the Commission from the Ministry of Finance**
- ❖ **Consistent budgetary allocation to the Commission**
- ❖ **Timely disbursement of fund for timely response to human rights issues**
- ❖ **Procurement of vehicles, furniture and equipment to enable staff perform their duties.**
- ❖ **Budgetary allocation to Increase manpower /staff capacity to the Commission for the recruitment of new staff.**

VOTE: [145 - 01] RIGHT TO ACCESS INFORMATION COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Right to Access Information Commission was established by an Act of Parliament in 2013 to provide for the disclosure of information held by a public authority, state institutions or persons providing services and other related matters. The main mandate of the Commission is to protect the right to access information by Members of the Public.

In the 2024 fiscal year, the Commission incurred the following : running costs: Administration costs, support to Regional Offices, support for the Budget process and its committees, popularization and capacity building on the RAIC law and regulations, capacity building for records management officers in MDAs and higher educational institutions on the records management code of practice, strengthening national institutional coordination on open data, integrating transparency and accountability in the decentralized delivery of basic and social services, and production of an abridged

version and translation of the RAIC Act into Krio language, for which the Commission actually spent **NLe 2,960,300.00**.

Budget analysis for the 2024 FY is shown in the table below

| No. | Details | Total NLe |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2024 | 38, 932.63 |
| 2 | Budget approved | 2,500,000.00 |
| 3 | Actual budget allocated | 2, 125,000.00 |
| 4 | Actual budget received | 2, 960,300.00 |
| 4 | Actual expenditure | 2,960,300.00 |
| | Closing Bank balance as at Sept. 2024 | 184, 887.72 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Commission submitted a budget of **NLe 4,942,758.00** for the 2024 fiscal year to the Ministry of Finance. **NLe 2,500,000.00** was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2024, the Commission had received **NLe 2,960,000.00** from the Ministry of Finance for quarters 1 to 3. The Committee observed an increase of **28.22%** in the Commission's actual budget received.

Key Findings

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, during the budgetary scrutiny the Committee made the following key findings:

- ❖ **That the Commission's budgetary allocation from the Ministry of Finance was too small the carry out its core functions.**
- ❖ **There were inadequate staff to carry out its core function of the Commission**

- ❖ **There is a strong need for training opportunities**
- ❖ **Culture of secrecy in the public and civil service must be dissected.**

Financial Year 2025

With a budget submission of **NLe 6,093,159.90** to the Ministry of Finance for the 2025 fiscal year, the Commission was, however, given a budget ceiling of **NLe 4,957,300.00**. The sum of **NLe 4,029,100.00** approved by Parliament this registered a decrease of **18.64%** in the Commission's budget proposal. According to the Vote Controller, if this amount is released on time, most of the challenges that the Commission has been encountering would be addressed.

RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, in view of the above and in considering of the importance of this Commission's role in promoting good governance and transparency, the Committee recommends the following:

- ❖ **An increase in the Commission's budget allocation to put it in a better position to carry out its mandate and core functions nationally.**
- ❖ **That the Presidency, Ministry of Information and Civic Education, Office of the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, the Parliamentary Committees of Legislative and Communication support the amendment of the RAIC Act to make it more potent to address present realities of access to information, as well as the passage into law of the Data Protection and Records and Archives Management Bills which would enhance the delivery of the Commission's mandate.**

- ❖ **Procurement of vehicles to enable the Commission carry out its work.**

3. VOTE: [305- 01] MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Mission of this Ministry among others, is to “protect and promote the rights of women, children, elderly, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups through development, review, and implementation and monitoring of favourable laws and policies.

Consistent with its mission, the Ministry has over the years made strides to achieve several objectives including, but not limited to, the review of the National Gender Strategic Plan, formulation of the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy, provide capacity building support.

In the 2024 fiscal year, the Ministry undertook expenditure ventures : Mid-Term Review and end of evaluation, review of MoSW strategic plan, undertake pilot research on PWDs and street beggars, quarterly monitoring on MoSW activities including devolve function, GoSL support to Muslim and Christian pilgrims, distribution of sacrificial lamb, provide Re-integration and psychosocial support to returning migrants, grant to key welfare institutions and other vulnerable groups, provide diets and sundry items to approved school and remand homes, annual advocacy events to promote welfare of vulnerable persons, family welfare directorate, mental health and psychosocial support directorate, provide support for the rehabilitation and integration of drugs and substance abuse in Sierra Leone, for which the Ministry actually spent **NLe 4,998,476**

Budget analysis for the 2024 FY is shown in the table below

| No. | Details | Total NLe |
|------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2024 | 18,801,225.00 |
| 2 | Budget approved | 17,871,399.00 |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 3 | Actual budget allocated | 13, 868,000.00 |
| 4 | Actual budget received | 4,115,989.40 |
| 5 | Actual expenditure | 3,399,545.43 |
| 6 | Closing Bank balance as at Sept. 2024 | 13,930,609.70 |

The Ministry submitted a budget of **NLe44, 344,600.00** for the 2024 fiscal year to the Ministry of Finance but **NLe 17,871,399.00** was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2024, the Ministry did not receive allocation from the GoSL Regular Budget, and only received the sum of **NLe 4,115,989.40** from donation.

Financial Year 2025

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, with a budget submission of **NLe 68,114,300.00** to the Ministry of Finance for the 2025 fiscal year, the Ministry was, however, given a budget ceiling of **NLe21, 990,700.00**, and the sum of **NLe17, 871,400.00** approved by the Ministry of Finance. This has registered a huge decrease of **73.76%** in the Ministry's proposed budget. According to the Vote Controller, however if this amount is allocated and released on time, most of the challenges that the Ministry has been encountering would be addressed.

Key Findings

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed the following during the sub –appropriation hearings:

- 1. Lack of funding for operational cost of the Ministry has led to non-procurement of office furniture and stationeries.**
- 2. Late submission of budgetary allocation stalled most programmes and projects to be implemented by the Ministry.**

RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, in view of the above, and considering the Ministry's role in advancing the rights of women and children, the Committee strongly recommends that the Ministry of Finance release the regular government budgetary allocations for the 2024 Financial Year to enable the Ministry cover its running and overhead costs and all roll over programmes and projects for the previous year, in addition to this year's budget allocation and provide a supplementary budget where necessary.

4. VOTE: [309-01] DENTAL AND MEDICAL BOARD

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the aforementioned Board is responsible to register and regulate doctors and medical practitioners to ensure that they perform their functions in line with acceptable international standards and according to the professions ethics and rules. It also monitors and inspects all health facilities nationwide.

In the 2024 fiscal year, the Board embarked on the following expenditures: Administrative and running costs, national publicity and sanitization programme (radio and Television), inspection and monitoring of health care facilities in all four regions of

the Country, investigate complaint against medical practitioners as well as health care facilities, joint assessment of house offices after horsemanship training programme, for which the Board actually spent **NLe 141,748.00**.

Budget analysis for the 2024 FY is shown in the table below

| No. | Details | Total NLe | Total Dollar \$ |
|-----|---------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2024 | 508,858.21 | 136,051.55 |
| 2 | Budget approved | 792,100.00 | |
| 3 | Actual budget allocated | 712,800.00 | |
| 4 | Actual budget received | 4,040,317.16 | |
| 4 | Actual expenditure | 3,339,739.58 | |
| | Closing Bank balance as at Sept. 2024 | 590,545.31 | 162,680.62 |

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the sum of **NLe 792,100.00** was approved by Parliament to be disbursed to the Board for the Financial Year under review. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2024, the Board had received **NLe 178,200.00** from the Ministry of Finance for the first and second quarters only.

The Committee also noted that since 2024 the Council only received **NLe 356,400.00** from Government, therefore most of the priority areas of the Board were not fully implemented in 2024.

Financial Year 2025

For the 2025 fiscal year, the Board was, however, given a budget ceiling of **NLe 974,600.00**. The sum of **NLe 974,600.00** approved by Parliament also the

Committee recommended that the amount submitted should be the same to be given to the Board as its actual budgetary allocation. According to the Registrar, the decrease of the budget allocation will affect Council from accomplishing the expected deliverables; it will also affect the annual activities of monitoring Health Care Facilities Nationwide.

KEY FINDINGS:

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

- **The officials shared with the Committee that the Board's revenue target for the Financial Year 2024 was NLe 1,780,780.00 and actual revenue collected as 30th Sept. 2024 amounted to NLe 3,957,661.00. The revenue increase of 55% was due to the increase in registration & renewal fees of Doctor and Dentist, and increase in registration & renewal of health care facilities. Revenue projection for F.Y 2025 is NLe 25,000,000.00.**
- **The Committee observed that the revenue generated by the Board is used for salaries and general operations of the Council.**

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee strongly recommends that the Ministry of Finance adds a supplementary budgetary allocation to the Board taking into consideration the role plays in regulating medical doctors and dentist and providing oversight over the general management of hospitals.

5. VOTE: [414 01] MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND SANITATION

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Water Resources, through its Agencies such as Guma Valley Water Company and Sierra Leone Water Company, is responsible for water supply throughout the country. It was established to ensure climate resilient, sustainable, clean and accessible water resources and environmental sanitation for all. Hence, this year, the Ministry's mandate has been expanded to cover sanitation which was previously under the purview of the Ministry of Health.

In the 2024 fiscal year, the Ministry under took the following expenditures administrative and running costs, establishment of the water directorate, water resource management unit, environment sanitation directorate, for which the Ministry actually spent **NLe 4, 142, 117.40**

Budget analysis for the 2024 FY is shown in the table below

| No. | Details | Total NLe |
|-----|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2024 | 502002.12 |
| 2 | Budget approved | 5, 205, 500.00 |
| 3 | Actual budget allocated | 4,452,788.00 |
| 4 | Actual budget received | 5, 216, 520.00 |
| 5 | Actual expenditure | 4, 142, 117.40 |
| 6 | Closing Bank balance as at Sept. 2024 | 319,161.88 |

The Ministry submitted a budget of **NLe 8, 420, 030.00** for the 2024 fiscal year to the Ministry of Finance. **NLe 5, 205, 500.00** was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2024, the Ministry received **NLe 4, 483,525.43** from the Ministry of Finance for quarters 1 to 3 and **NLe 732,995.00** from Donation.

Key Findings

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, during the deliberations the Committee noted the following:

- ❖ **That the late allocation of budgetary allocation would affect the supply of water throughout the country.**
- ❖ **Inadequate and late allocation will lead ineffective inspection of water facilities this would have a negative effect on the quality of water supply.**
- ❖ **Insufficient man power (capacity problem).**

Financial Year 2025

For the Financial Year 2025 the Ministry made a budget submission of **NLe 7, 100, 675.00** to the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry was, however, given a budget ceiling of **NLe 6, 404,800.00**. The sum of **NLe19, 464,200.00** approved by Parliament which registered a huge increase of **63.52%** in the Ministry's approved budget. According to the Vote Controller, if this amount is allocated and released on time, most of the challenges that the Ministry has been encountering would be addressed.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee strongly recommends that the Ministry of Finance allocate the approved budget to the Ministry on time and provide a supplementary budget where necessary, taking due cognizance of the important oversight it perform over the water sector which is public good.

6. VOTE: [410-01] NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA AUTHORITY (NPAA) AND CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the National Protected Area Authority [NPAA] and the National Conservation Trust Fund [NCTF] were established by an Act of Parliament in 2012, to provide oversight for National Parks and Protected Areas designated for conservation purposes, with the aim of protecting the forests, fauna and flora in their natural state.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, according to the NPAA Act, Section 21 [1] provided that the funds of the Trust Fund shall consist of:

- (a) Monies appropriated by Parliament for the purposes of the Authority;
- (b) All monies given to the Authority by way of gifts, endowments, bequest, grant or other contributions by persons and organisations for the purposes of the Authority.

In light of the above provisions, it is clear that the National Conservation Trust Fund carries the Vote Head for budgetary allocation purposes and the NPAA implements all projects and activities of the Protected Area Management

In the 2024 fiscal year, the Authority under took the following expenditures : administration costs, support to services to protected areas, protected area management services, for which the Ministry actually spent **NLe 2, 465, 663.20**.

Budget analysis for the 2024 FY is shown in the table below

| No. | Details | Total NLe | EUR |
|------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 1 | Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2024 | 437,302.77 | |
| 2 | Budget approved | 3,576,200.00 | |

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| 3 | Actual budget allocated | 3,576,000.00 | |
| 4 | Actual budget received | 3,892,842.00 | 478,042.60 |
| 5 | Actual expenditure | 3,815,561.85 | |
| 6 | Closing Bank balance as at Sept. 2024 | 543,751.73 | 478,042.60 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Authority submitted a budget of **NLe 8,077,380.00** for the 2024 fiscal year to the Ministry of Finance and **NLe 3,576,200.00** was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2024, the Authority received **NLe 2, 045,000.00** from the Ministry of Finance for the first and second quarters, and **NLe 1, 847,842.00, and EUR 478,042.60** from donors. The Committee observed a decrease of **42.82%** in the Authority's actual budget received from the GoSL Regular Budget.

Key Findings

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

- 1. Late budgetary allocation from the Ministry of Finance has slowed the operations of the Authority.**
- 2. The Authority lacks the basic equipment to protect forest from encroachers and timber harvesters.**

Financial Year 2025

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members with budgetary submission of **NLe 10,563,990.00** to the Ministry of Finance for the 2025 fiscal year, the Ministry was, however, given a budget ceiling of **NLe 3,700,100.00**. The sum of **NLe 5,500,000.00** approved by

Parliament this has recorded an increase of **32.73%** in the Authority's approved budget

Recommendation

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee strongly recommends that the Ministry of Finance release the budgetary allocation of the Authority on time to enable it to perform the intent for its establishment.

7. VOTE: [315-01]: TEACHING HOSPITALS COMPLEX ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Chairman, Honorable, Members, the University of Sierra Leone Teaching Hospitals Complex was established by an Act of Parliament in 2016. The Teaching Hospitals Complex has a mandate to provide healthcare services to the people of Sierra Leone, offer undergraduate and postgraduate training to healthcare professionals, and undertake health-related research to advance medical knowledge and improve health conditions in Sierra Leone.

The Teaching Hospitals Complex (USLTHC) comprises six composite hospitals, namely Connaught, Princess Christian, Ola During, Jui Hospital, Kissy Psychiatric, and Lakka Hospital. Additionally, there are five minor affiliate hospitals under the Complex, including Makeni, Bo, Kenema, Choithram Memorial Hospitals, and the Emergency Surgical Centre.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, during the 2024 Fiscal Year budget scrutiny process the Committee observed that Connaught Hospital cannot prepare neither send budget to Ministry of Finance, the Hospital received allocation from Ministry of Health to carried out its operations, Ministry of Health prepared a holistic Budget that covered Connaught Hospital.

Budget analysis for the 2024 FY is shown in the table below:

| No. | Details | Total NLe |
|-----|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2024 | 1,113,504.67 |
| 2 | Budget approved | N/A |
| 3 | Actual budget allocated | N/A |
| 4 | Actual budget received | 4,962,222.00 |
| 4 | Actual expenditure | 5, 338, 040.06 |
| | Closing Bank balance as at Sept. 2024 | 737,686.61 |

The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2024, the Connaught Hospital had received **NLe 1, 500,000.00** from Ministry of Health for the first quarters only and **NLe 3,462,222.00** from other revenue sources.

KEY FINDINGS:

Discussing the challenges the Hospital experienced in the course of implementing its functions, the Vote Controller revealed the following:

- 1. The Committee was deeply disappointed that most hospitals are in deplorable conditions and needs rehabilitation with immediate effect to safe guard the lives of patients.**
- 2. The Committee also noted that most hospital do not have the right equipment to treat patient this has led to increased fatalities.**

Financial Year 2025

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the Financial Year 2025 the Ministry of Finance has allocated the sum of **NLe 2,602,800** to the Administration. The Committee of the unanimous view that this amount should be backed by a supplementary budget to enable the Administration carry out key functions.

RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee strongly recommends that a percentage of the revenue collected by the Administration be used to cover operation cost, in addition to the regular government budgetary allocation given to the Administration.

8. VOTE: [413-01] SIERRA LEONE ELECTRICITY AND WATER

REGULATORY COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission is established through an Act of Parliament, the Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission Act, 2011. The Commission formulates, implement and monitor the quality of tariff and regulate the framework for safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity and water in Sierra Leone. It came into operation in 2015.

Act. As a revenue generating Institution, the Commission's main source of revenue included, but not limited to the following: levies from Guma Valley Water Company, EDSA, SALWACO, generator licenses, producers of sachet water etc.

In the 2024 fiscal year, the Commission had administration costs, increase market entry, competition and universal access, utility tariff based on efficient cost of service, quality of service based on international standards, consumer protection , for which the Commission's actually spent **NLe 2,900,000.00**.

Budget analysis for the 2024 FY is shown in the table below

| No. | Details | Total NLe |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2024 | 545,253.98 |
| 2 | Budget approved | 6,100,000.00 |
| 3 | Actual budget allocated | Nil |
| 4 | Actual budget received | 2, 600,000.00 |
| 4 | Actual expenditure | 2,465,663.20 |
| | Closing Bank balance as at Sept. 2024 | 679,590.78 |

The Commission submitted a budget of **NLe 2,100,000.00** for the 2024 fiscal year to the Ministry of Finance. **NLe 6,100,000.00** was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2024, the Commission received **NLe 2,600,000.00** from Grant for quarters 1 to 3. The Committee observed that the Commission did not receive the fourth quarter allocation from the Ministry of Finance.

Financial Year 2025

With a budget submission of **NLe 5,500,000.00** to the Ministry of Finance for the 2025 fiscal year, the Commission was, however, given a budget ceiling of **NLe 1,300,000.00**. The sum of **NLe 1,358,000.00** approved by Parliament to be given to the Commission as its regular government budgetary allocation.

KEY FINDINGS:

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

- 1. The Committee observed that due to the late budgetary allocation the Authority was unable cover a lot of operational and running cost this has led to a huge lose revenue.**
- 2. The Committee also noticed that both the Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority and the GUMA Valley Water Company owe huge arrears with the Authority this has led the Institution's fall short of revenue its targets.**

During the scrutiny process, the officials shared with the Committee that the Company's revenue target for F.Y 2024 was **NLe 13,000,000.00** and actual revenue collected as 30th Sept. 2024 amounted to **NLe 16,000,000.00**. There was a revenue increase of **18.75%**. **However**, due to the non – compliance of GVWC and EDSA in payment of annual levies, the inadequate man power to establish offices in various geographical locations of the country where operations of Electricity and Water Operator the Authority was unable to meet its revenue expectations. Revenue projection for F.Y 2025 is **NLe 25,000,000.00**. For the Financial Year 2025 the Ministry of Finance has actually allocated the sum of Le 1,358,000.00 to the Authority as their budgetary allocation.

Recommendation

The Committee strongly recommends that in addition to regular budgetary allocation from the Ministry of Finance ,arrears owed by both the GUMA Valley Water Company and the Electricity Generation and Supply Authority should be paid to enable the Authority met its revenue target and expectations to the Government of Sierra Leone.

9. VARIOUS - GUMA VALLEY WATER COMPANY

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Guma Valley Water Company (GVWC) was established under the 1960 Ordinance but started operation in 1961 as Government-

owned entity with the primary responsibility to provide water services for the population of 1.5 million residents in Freetown. Due to the rapid increase in population and expansion of Western Area Urban communities, the Guma Valley water Company Act 2017 was enacted by Parliament with the Mandate to supply water to not only Freetown but to its surrounding rural communities as well.

In the 2024 fiscal year, the Company undertook the following expenditures and civil works : rehabilitation of babadories reservoir, design and rehabilitation of Kongo dam, Kongo weir, Tacugyama weir, Sugar Loaf weir and associated pipelines, rehabilitation of Allentown WIP CHICO, extension 45km brunnenbau Conrad SL Ltd, rehabilitation of pumping and booster stations, design and construction of Angola town water system, construction of Babadories reservoir, work package 7-Hill Station and Imatt water supply project, operation and maintenance, administrative and finance, for which the Company actually spent **USD\$ 73, 605, 430.82**.

Budget analysis for the 2024 FY is shown in the table below

| No. | Details | Total NLe |
|-----|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2024 | 2,068,963.60 |
| 2 | Budget approved | 7, 500,000 |
| 3 | Actual budget allocated | N/A |
| 4 | Donations/ Grant/Loans Received | 541,722.00 |
| 5 | Other Revenue (Raw Water Use Charges) | 455,000.00 |
| 6 | Actual budget received | 996,722.00 |
| 7 | Actual expenditure | N/A |
| | Closing Bank balance as at Sept. 2024 | 1,172,057.77 |

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Company submitted a budget of **NLe116, 325,800.00** for the 2024 fiscal year to the Ministry of Finance. **NLe7, 500,000.00** was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2024, the Company received **Le541, 722.00** from the Donor for quarter one (1), and **NLe455, 000.00** from other revenue (dividend reconnections fees, rental, income etc). The Committee observed that the company did not have allocation neither received allocation from GoSL Regular Budget for the Fourth Quarter.

Key Findings

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members ,discussing the challenges the Company faced in the course of implementing its functions, the Managing Director revealed the following:

- ❖ **The budgetary support from Government is to enable GVWC to undertake capital project geared towards increase in access to portable water through extension of sub-mains, repairs to leaks, caring of water to community tanks that are not getting supply through the GVWC pipe network**

Financial Year 2025

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members , the Company made a budget submission of NLe113, 152, 000.00 to the Ministry of Finance for the 2025 fiscal year, the Company was, not given a budget ceiling. The sum of NLe 8,500,000.00 approved by Parliament also noted a decrease of 92.49% in the Company's proposed budget.

During the scrutiny process, the officials shared with the Committee that the Company's revenue target for F.Y 2024 was **NLe77, 478,000.00** and actual revenue collected as

30th Sept. 2024 amounted to **NLe 50, 680,000.00**. The revenue decrease of **34.59%** was due to the refusal of some customers to honour their monthly bills, difficulties in getting customers to settle bills based on flat charges, delay in payment of bills by MDAs, closure of business, and delay in the implementation of key activities like procurement and installation of meters. Revenue projection for F.Y 2025 is **NLe 113,635,000.00**.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, in view of the above and in consideration of the importance of this Company, the Committee recommends the following:

- ❖ **Boreholes to be constructed managed by Government/NGO/GVWC**
- ❖ **Spring boxes and other water sources to be managed by GVWC in areas without network extension**
- ❖ **Water kiosk to be constructed by GVWC and managed by the Community**
- ❖ **Establishment of a water bottling factory at mile 13.**
- ❖ **Modern methods of collecting revenue should be employed by the Company to meet revenue targets of the Government of Sierra Leone.**

10. VOTE: [413-00] NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NWRMA)

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, National Water Resources Management Agency (NWRMA) was established by an Act of Parliament in **2017** responsible to ensure that the water resources of the country are controlled in a sustainable manner taking into account:

- (a) Adopting natural river basin and aquifer boundaries as the basic units of management of water resources;

- (b) Protecting the water resources for sustainability of the resource and protection of aquatic systems and recognizing the polluter-pays principle;
- (c) Providing for existing customary uses of water and avoidance of significant harm to other users;
- (d) Promoting the efficient and beneficial use of water resources in the public interest;
- (e) Promoting community participation and gender equity in the allocation of water resources;
- (f) Promoting conservation and recognizing the economic value of water resources;
- (g) Reducing and preventing pollution and degradation of water resources; and (h) meeting international obligations in protecting and managing transfer boundary water bodies.

In the 2024 fiscal year, the Agency undertook the following expenditures administrative and operational costs : Admin & Operational Activities 1, vehicle and building maintenance and services, board expenses and staff, finance accounting (maintenance) for provincial offices and procurement of vehicles, operationalization of two regional offices (South East and North West), for which the Agency actually spent **NLe 6, 398, 008.00**.

Budget analysis for the 2024 FY is shown in the table below

| No. | Details | Total NLe |
|------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2024 | 699, 672.95 |
| 2 | Budget approved | 3, 870, 000.00 |
| 3 | Actual budget allocated | 967, 500.00 |
| 4 | Donations/ Grant/Loans Received | 1, 666,358.42 |
| 5 | Other Revenue (Raw Water Use Charges) | 4, 384, 381.00 |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 6 | Actual budget received | 7,717,912.00 |
| 7 | Actual expenditure | 6, 398, 008.00 |
| | Closing Bank balance as at Sept. 2024 | 1, 319,904.00 |

The Agency submitted a budget of **NLe 10, 433, 860.00** for the 2024 fiscal year to the Ministry of Finance. **NLe 3,870,000.00** was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2024, the Agency received **NLe 967, 500.00** from the Ministry of Finance for quarter one (1), **NLe 1, 666, 358.42** from donation and **NLe 4, 384, 381.00** from other Revenue (Raw Water Use Charges). The Committee observed a decrease of **75%** in the Agency's actual budget received from GoSL Regular Budget.

Key Findings

Mr.Chairman, Honourable Members, during the hearings the Committee observed the following:

- ❖ **Limited tools and Equipment**
- ❖ **Limited capacity of staff in water resources management**
- ❖ **Limited funds for efficient operations**
- ❖ **Vandalism of hydrological monitoring stations**

With a budget submission of **NLe 7, 015, 596.80** to the Ministry of Finance for the 2025 fiscal year, the Agency was, however, given a budget ceiling of **NLe 5, 290, 900.00**. The sum of **NLe 6,526,500.00** approved by Parliament also noted a decrease of **24.58%** in the Agency's budget ceiling.

During the scrutiny process, the officials shared with the Committee that the Agency's revenue target for F.Y 2024 was **NLe 4,500,000.00** and actual revenue collected as 30th Sept. 2024 amounted to **NLe 6, 298, 198.80**. The revenue excess of **28.55%** was due to the increased cooperation from existing clients and the ratification of its regulation by the House of Parliament. The latter development has empowered the Agency to enforce the laws stipulated in its Act. Leading to a rise in compliance visits conducted by the Planning Research and Operations, and Legal Regulation and Outreach department,

Secondly, the Agency has opened regional branches in the provincial headquarters towns of Makeni and Bo.

Finally, the Agency has now pursued, vigorous compliance visits to existing water users and potential ones. Revenue projection for F.Y 2025 is **NLe 5, 000, 000.00**.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, in view of the above and in considering the importance of this Agency, the Committee recommends the following:

- ❖ **Development and implementation of effective finance mobilization strategy**
- ❖ **Effective implementation of the Agency's capacity building plan.**
- ❖ **Setting up and operationalization of critical catchment management committees and basin boards.**

11. VOTE: [110 - 03] EGTC ELECTRICITY GENERATION & TRANSMISSION COMPANY

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Electricity Generation & Transmission Company was established to Generate and Transmit electricity for sale to EDSA, subject to PPA as approved by EWRC, the Company is also committed to providing reliable, quality and

affordable electricity generation and transmission services to its clients in a cost-effective, safe and sustainable manner.

In the 2024 fiscal year, the Company undertook the following expenditures: administrative and running costs, for which the Company actually spent **NLe 11,475.00**.

Budget analysis for the 2024 FY is shown in the table below

| No. | Details | Total NLe | Total US\$ |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 | Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2024 | 187,968.35 | N/A |
| 2 | Budget approved | N/A | N/A |
| 3 | Actual budget allocated | N/A | N/A |
| 4 | Actual budget received | 310,014.00 | N/A |
| 4 | Actual expenditure | 30,555.00 | N/A |
| | Closing Bank balance as at Sept. 2024 | 5, 464,954.41 | 5,153.28 |

The Company did not submit budget for the 2024 fiscal year to the Ministry of Finance, and nothing was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2024, the Company received **NLe162, 484.00** from other revenue sources for quarters 1 to 3. The Committee observed that this company's operations are not funded by the GoSL Regular Budget.

KEY FINDINGS:

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, during the hearings the Committee observed the following:

- 1. That the Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority owed the Company a very huge amount.**
- 2. That the Company does not get direct budgetary allocation from the Ministry of Finance, the allocation goes through EDSA for the Company.**

During the scrutiny process, the officials shared with the Committee that the Company's revenue target for F.Y 2024 was **NLe2, 000,000.00** and actual revenue collected as 30th Sept. 2024 amounted to **NLe 291,335.00** for both amount invoice and payment received. And there is no revenue projection for F.Y 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee strongly recommends that going forward for revenue target to be meet by the Company the following should be done:

- ❖ Direct sale of electricity manufacturing companies
- ❖ EDSA should pay its invoice and arrears owed to the Company.

12. VOTE: [414 – 00] SIERRA LEONE WATER COMPANY (SALWACO)

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone Water Company was established by an Act of Parliament (The SALWACO Act 2001) charged with the responsibility to provide safe and efficient water Supply Services to provincial towns and cities. The SALWACO Act was amended in 2017 as enacted by Parliament to strengthen the company's financial viability and also added a technical advisory role for SALWACO to Local Councils in rural areas. SALWACO's current operational areas with Conventional Water Supply Systems include but not limited to; Lungi, Port Loko, Kambia, Lunsar,

Makeni, Magburaka, Kabala, Mile 91, Moyamba, Bo, Bonthe Island, Pujehun, Blama Bandawor, Kenema and Kailahun

In the 2024 fiscal year, the Company under took the following expenditures : provisional water supply improve access to safe affordable water supply in our jurisdiction (water supply system running cost), fuel and maintenance of vehicles and generators maintain and run existing / newly acquired plants and vehicles to meet effective water supply delivery, monitoring, evaluation, and administrative expenses – improving access to water supply facilities and water – related sanitation in rural areas, improving connections to the SALWACO network in provincial district settlement through sensitization campaigns, for which the Company actually spent **NLe 12,686,618.38**

Budget analysis for the 2024 FY is shown in the table below

| No. | Details | Total NLe |
|------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2024 | 489,618.17 |
| 2 | Budget approved | 9,958,600.00 |
| 3 | Actual budget allocated | 6,723,000.00 |
| 4 | Actual budget received | 14, 593,186.09 |
| 4 | Actual expenditure | 12, 686,618.38 |
| | Closing Bank balance as at Sept. 2024 | 2,070,020.39 |

The Company submitted a budget of **NLe 10,569,600.00** for the 2024 fiscal year to the Ministry of Finance. **NLe 9,958,600.00** was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2024, the Company had received **NLe8,200,124.54** from the Ministry of Finance for quarters 2 and 3, and

NLe6,393,061.55 from other revenue sources. The Committee observed a slight decrease of **17.66%** in the Company's actual budget received from the GoSL Regular Budget.

Key Findings

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, discussing the challenges the Company faced in the course of implementing its functions, the Managing Director revealed the following:

- ❖ **Inefficiency in the production and supply of treated water**
- ❖ **Lack of funds to procure chemicals to treat water.**

Financial Year 2025

For the Financial Year 2025 the Company made a budget submission of **NLe 10,252,699.70** to the Ministry of Finance for the 2025 fiscal year, the Company was, however, given a budget ceiling of **NLe 10,252,700.00**. And the sum of **NLe9,958,600.00 has been approved** by Parliament.

During the scrutiny process, the officials shared with the Committee that the Company's revenue target for F.Y 2024 was **NLe 6,006,577.50** and actual revenue collected as 30th Sept. 2024 amounted to **NLe 6,390,461.55**. The revenue decrease of **6.01%** was due to the massive revenue mobilization and most government institution such as hospitals, military barracks, schools, police barracks, etc. are very reluctant to pay for water consumed. Revenue projection for F.Y 2025 is **NLe 12,965,345.00**.

The Committee observed that the revenue generated by the Company was disbursed to address the operational cost of the institution.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee strongly recommends that the regular government allocation must be given to the Company and on time.

13. VOTE: [131-01] INCOME TAX BOARD OF APPELLATE COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, pursuant to the Income Tax Act, 2000, and the Goods and Services Tax Act, 2009, the Board serves as the primary administrative appeal body through which tax payers can seek redress for alleged unfair deductions or calculation of their taxes. It therefore plays a crucial role in fostering tax accountability and fairness.

In the 2024 fiscal year, the Commission expended on the following : administrative costs (office rent, utilities, tax return, board expenses, audit fees, office supplies), public sensitization cost (name town hall meeting, DSA, fuel, vehicle rental, media and publication and appeal hearing of deliverable 3) , for which the Commission actually spent **NLe1, 037, 442.44**.

Budget analysis for the 2024 FY is shown in the table below

| No. | Details | Total NLe |
|------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2024 | 163, 796.44 |
| 2 | Budget approved | 1,131,600.00 |
| 3 | Actual budget allocated | 1,852,800.00 |
| 4 | Actual budget received | 1, 292, 800.00 |
| 4 | Actual expenditure | 1,037,442.44 |
| | Closing Bank balance as at Sept. 2024 | 408,078.00 |

The Commission submitted a budget of **NLe 1,131,600.00** for the 2024 fiscal year to the Ministry of Finance. **NLe 1, 131,600.00** was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2024, the Commission received **NLe1, 292,800.00** from the Ministry of Finance for quarters 3. The Committee observed an increase of **12.47%** in the Commission's actual budget received.

Key Findings

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members ,discussing the challenges the Commission faced in the course of implementing their functions, the Board Chairman revealed the following:

- ❖ **Appeals – the present situation is such that after a tax collector charges tax unsatisfactorily, you are bound to appeal first to the NRA Commissioner General before the Revenue Appeal Board**
- ❖ **Resources – lack of adequate resource allocation from Government to effectively carry out the mandate of the Board**
- ❖ **Representation – there is no representation of the Board in any of the districts to not only publicize the Board but take complaints from tax payer**
- ❖ **Mobility – the board lack vehicle or motorbikes to move around the 16 Districts in the Country to deliver on its mandate**
- ❖ **Appeals hearings – the mandate provides for the hearings to be held where the complaints are made from but there are no resources to get there**
- ❖ **Training – there is no provision for the training of both staff and commissioners**
- ❖ **Expansion of the Commission's mandate (appeals process) – sec 137, should be amended for effectual delivery to make appeals directly to the Board Remove the power of appeal to NRA Commissioner – General as a precondition, direct to the Revenue Board.**

With a budget submission of **NLe783, 600.00** to the Ministry of Finance for the 2025 fiscal year, the Commission was, however, given a budget ceiling of **NLe509, 200.00**. The sum of **NLe1, 631,600.00** was approved by Parliament which registered a decrease of **35.02%** in the Commission's budget ceiling. According to the Vote Controller, if this approved amount is received and released on time, most of the challenges that the Commission has been encountering would be addressed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members ,in view of the above and considering the importance of this Commission, the Committee recommends for a swift action to be taken regarding the afore-mentioned challenges so as to make the Board's existence viable and vibrant.

14. VOTE: [701-00] BO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Local Government Act, 2004, gives responsibility to Local Councils in Sierra Leone to promote the development of their respective localities and the welfare of the people in their locality, using the resources they receive from Central Government, own source and development partners.

Budget analysis for the **2024 FY** is shown in the table below

| No. | Details | Total NLe |
|------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2024 | 410,578.33 |
| 2 | Budget approved | 8,630,772.00 |
| 3 | Actual budget allocated | 11,138,769.00 |
| 4 | Actual budget received | 13,520,045.55 |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 5 | Actual expenditure | 11,538,667.87 |
| 6 | Closing Bank balance as at Sept. 2024 | 2, 573,710.6 |

The Council submitted a budget of **NLe10, 000,000.00 for the 2024 fiscal year** to the Ministry of Finance. **NLe8, 630,772.00** was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2024, the Council received **NLe5,645,159.94** from the Ministry of Finance for quarters 1 and 3, **NLe7,874,885.61** from other revenue (own source, Development grant, and RMF). The Committee observed a decrease of **34.59%** in the Council's actual budget received from GoSL Regular Budget.

Key Findings

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members in discussing the challenges the Council faced in the course of implementing its functions, the Vote Controller revealed the following:

- ❖ **Inadequate personnel to manage the affairs of certain Departments & Units for example Engineering Department and Valuation unit;**
- ❖ **Conflict between the Local Government Act and certain sectorial policies especially in the area of control over revenue;**
- ❖ **Lack of control over Devolved Sector staff**
- ❖ **Late transfer/disbursement of funds for in-year sector activities**

Financial Year 2025

The Council made a budget submission of **NLe9, 165,593.00** to the Ministry of Finance **for the 2025 fiscal year**; the Council was, however, given a budget ceiling of

NLe14, 161,899.00. The sum of **NLe 12, 563, 500.00** approved by Parliament also noted a decrease of **35.28%** in the Council's budget ceiling. According to the Vote Controller, if this amount approved by Parliament is received and released on time, most of the challenges that the Council has been encountering will be addressed.

During the scrutiny process, the officials shared with the Committee that the Council's revenue target for F.Y 2024 was **NLe3, 172,086.00** and actual revenue collected as 30th Sept. 2024 amounted to **NLe 1,669,352.00**. The revenue decrease of **47.37%** was due to inadequate capacity to collect revenue-personnel and logistics etc., payment of local tax precept poses a challenge as Council finds it difficult to get a share of all the expected revenue from this source from the Chiefdom Administration Council. Revenue projection for F.Y 2025 is **NLe 3, 405,400.00**.

Recommendations

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in view of the above and considering of the importance of the Councils to the Decentralization and Devolved function process , the Committee recommends the following:

- ❖ **Timely transfer of funds for devolved activities**
- ❖ **Recruitment of additional core Staff to core departments /units**
- ❖ **Sector staff to be devolved to Council**

15. VOTE: [701-12] TONKOLILI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, Tonkolili District Council is among the 22 local councils constituted by the Local Government Act, 2004 after the 32 years of centralized governance in Sierra Leone. This Council is one of the biggest councils which have a high level of revenue potential.

Budget analysis for the **2024 FY** is shown in the table below

| No. | Details | Total NLe |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Opening bank balance as at Jan. 2024 | 35, 112.94 |
| 2 | Budget approved | 25, 042, 541.00 |
| 3 | Actual budget allocated | 13,940,869.007 |
| 4 | Actual budget received | 13, 490,028.41 |
| 5 | Actual expenditure | 13, 291,380.66 |
| 6 | Closing Bank balance as at Sept. 2024 | 685,259.52 |

The Council submitted a budget of **NLe25, 042, 541.00 for the 2024 fiscal year** to the Ministry of Finance. **NLe25, 042, 541.00** was approved by Parliament. The Committee noted that as of 30th September 2024, the Council received **NLe8, 584,617.00** from the Ministry of Finance for quarters 1 to 3, **NLe1, 800,274.50** from other revenue (own source), **NLe54, 100.00** from DDCC support, **NLe2, 785,836.91** from RMFA, and **NLe265, 200.00** from School Bus. The Committee observed a decrease of **65.72%** in the Council's actual budget received from GoSL Regular Budget.

Key Findings

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members in discussing the challenges the Council faced in the course implementing their functions, the Vote Controller revealed the following:

- ❖ **Difficult access to some revenue locations**
- ❖ **Finance Department to do proper assessment and payment of receipts and payment from fees and licenses.**
- ❖ **Very low or no revenue potential of some chiefdoms**

- ❖ **Political interference**
- ❖ **Conflicting polices /regulation laws**
- ❖ **Out-dated cadastral system**

Financial Year 2025

The Council made a budget submission of **NLe40, 334, 268.85** to the Ministry of Finance **for the 2025 fiscal year**, the Council was, however, given a budget ceiling of **NLe17, 217, 705.00**. The sum of **NLe 19, 848,706.00** approved by Parliament also noted a decrease of **57.31%** in the Council's budget ceiling. According to the Vote Controller, if this amount approved by Parliament is received and released on time, most of the challenges that the Council has been encountering will be addressed.

During the scrutiny process, the officials shared with the Committee that the Council's revenue target for F.Y 2024 was **NLe24, 609, 349.00** and actual revenue collected as 30th Sept. 2024 amounted to **NLe13, 489, 417.00**. The revenue decrease of **45.19%** was due to low revenue mobilization and compliance, lack of mobility for own source revenue mobilization, late disbursement of funds from central government, mega salaries of core staff is not regularly paid on time, sometimes one or two months overlap in the payment of salaries. Revenue projection for F.Y 2025 was not disclosed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, in view of the above and considering of the important role played by Councils to actualize decentralizations and devolved functions the recommends the following :

- ❖ **Timely payment of fund from Government**
- ❖ **Update of the cadastral system for proper revenue assessment**
- ❖ **The Council to coordinate and collaborate with chiefdom authorities to identify and maximize the collection of own source revenue resources**

6. CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, I want to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks and appreciation to the Honourable Members of Sub-Committee 9 for their cooperation and teamwork as they critically scrutinized the budgets of the MDAs under their purview. The Committee wishes to thank all staff who provided technical support.

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, on behalf of this Committee, I move that the Vote Heads and sub heads of MDAs, including allocations to the Local Councils scrutinized by this Committee as indicated in the table below stand part of the Schedule and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Table 1: MDAs Account Heads and their Allocations for 2024

| Vote | Div. | Vote Description | Amount [NLe] |
|-------------|-------------|---|---------------------|
| 144 | 01 | Human Right Commission of Sierra Leone | 4,994,900.00 |
| 145 | 01 | Right to Access Information Commission | 4,029,100.00 |
| 305 | 01 | Ministry of Social Welfare | 17,871,400.00 |
| 309 | 01 | Dental and Medical Board | 974,600.00 |
| 414 | 01 | Ministry of Water Resources & Sanitation | 19, 464,200.00 |
| 410 | 01 | National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) | 5,500,000.00 |

| | | | |
|-----|----|--|-----------------|
| 315 | 01 | Teaching Hospitals Complex Administration | 2,602,800.00 |
| 413 | 01 | Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission | 1,358,000.00 |
| 139 | 01 | Guma Valley Water Company | 2,602,800.00 |
| 414 | 00 | Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO) | 828,837.00 |
| 110 | 03 | EGTC. Elect. Generation & Transmission Company | 1,631,600.00 |
| 413 | 00 | National Water Resources Management Agency | 6,526,500.00 |
| 131 | 01 | Revenue Appellate Board | 1,631,600.00 |
| 107 | 01 | Bo District Council | 12, 563, 500.00 |
| 107 | 01 | Tonkolili District Council | 19, 848,706.00 |
| | | Conclusion | |

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Hon. Issac Tom Tucker, Chairman

Sub - Appropriation Committee 9

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

Table 1: MDAs Account Heads and their Allocations for 2024

| Vote | Div. | Vote Description | Amount [NLe] |
|-------------|-------------|--|---------------------|
| 144 | 01 | Human Right Commission of Sierra Leone | 4,994,900.00 |
| 145 | 01 | Right to Access Information Commission | 4,029,100.00 |
| 305 | 01 | Ministry of Social Welfare | 17,871,400.00 |
| 309 | 01 | Dental and Medical Board | 974,600.00 |
| 414 | 01 | Ministry of Water Resources & Sanitation | 19, 464,200.00 |

| | | | |
|-----|----|--|-----------------|
| 410 | 01 | National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) | 5,500,000.00 |
| 315 | 01 | Teaching Hospitals Complex Administration | 2,602,800.00 |
| 413 | 01 | Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission | 1,358,000.00 |
| 139 | 01 | Guma Valley Water Company | 2,602,800.00 |
| 414 | 00 | Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO) | 828,837.00 |
| 110 | 03 | EGTC. Elect. Generation & Transmission Company | 1,631,600.00 |
| 413 | 00 | National Water Resources Management Agency | 6,526,500.00 |
| 131 | 01 | Revenue Appellate Board | 1,631,600.00 |
| 107 | 01 | Bo District Council | 12, 563, 500.00 |
| 107 | 01 | Tonkolili District Council | 19, 848,706.00 |
| | | Conclusion | |

[QUESTION PROPOSED, PUT AND AGREED TO]

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

GROUP TWO

VOTES

10601, 10602, 10603, 10604, 10701, 10702, 10703, 40401, 40601, 41501, 20301, 14301, 31301, 70117, and 10108 to stand part of the schedule.

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

Table Containing Recommended Vote Heads for Approval

| Vote | Division | Vote Description | Total Sum Voted (NLe) |
|-------------|-----------------|--|------------------------------|
| 106 | 01 | Office of the Chief Minister | 24,115,700 |
| 106 | 02 | Office of Presidential Infrastructure Initiative | 1,500,000 |
| 106 | 03 | Governance Advisory Unit | 752,700 |
| 106 | 04 | Delivery and Performance Tracking | 1,131,600 |
| 107 | 01 | Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs | 13,361,600 |
| 107 | 02 | Southern Province, Bo | 4,630,000 |
| 107 | 03 | Eastern Province, Kenema | 4,234,400 |
| 404 | 01 | Ministry of Transport and Aviation | 60,586,100 |
| 406 | 01 | Ministry of Energy | 880,966,000 |
| 415 | 01 | Sierra Leone Maritime Administration | 106,898,200 |
| 203 | 01 | National Civil Registration Authority | 15,084,500 |
| 143 | 01 | Justice and Legal Service Commission | 1,065,800 |
| 313 | 01 | National Youth Service | 3,394,000 |
| 701 | 17 | Moyamba District Council | 16,269,616 |
| 701 | 08 | Bombali District Council | 10,982,486 |

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

HON.BOSTON MUNDA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I present to the House the Report on the Sub-Appropriation Committee **No.2** on the review of the Current and Development Budget estimate of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies that were under its examination for the financial year 2025.

[Report laid]

INTRODUCTION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, consistent with **Section 112 [6] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991**, and the **Revised Standing Orders [S.O] of the Sierra Leone Parliament, S.O 64 [3] and 66 [1]**, I hereby, present the Report of the Sub-Appropriation Committee 2, on its budget scrutiny of the recurrent and development expenditure estimates of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) that were placed under its purview for the **Financial Year (FY) 2025**.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee comprises of the following Honourable Members:

1. Hon. Boston Munda – **Chairman**
2. Hon. Musa Fofanah – **Deputy Chairman**
3. Hon. Mohamed Conteh
4. Hon. P.C Bai Shebora Sheba Gbereh iii
5. Hon. Yusuf Mackery
6. Hon. Zainab Timbo
7. Hon. Alie Bayoh
8. Hon. Margret Feimata Johnson
9. Hon. Abdulai Kamara A
10. Hon. Mariama Ella Goba
11. Hon. Kemokoh Conteh
12. Hon. Edward George

SUPPORT STAFF

Below were staff of the Committee's Secretariat.

1. Mr. Ibrahim Jalloh – Principal Clerk of Committees
2. Michael Alieu Torkpoh – Clerk of Committees.
3. Hannah Massaquoi – Assistant Clerk of Committees.

Table Containing Recommended Vote Heads for Approval

| Vote | Division | Vote Description | Total Sum Voted (NLe) |
|-------------|-----------------|--|------------------------------|
| 106 | 01 | Office of the Chief Minister | 24,115,700 |
| 106 | 02 | Office of Presidential Infrastructure Initiative | 1,500,000 |
| 106 | 03 | Governance Advisory Unit | 752,700 |
| 106 | 04 | Delivery and Performance Tracking | 1,131,600 |
| 107 | 01 | Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs | 13,361,600 |
| 107 | 02 | Southern Province, Bo | 4,630,000 |
| 107 | 03 | Eastern Province, Kenema | 4,234,400 |
| 404 | 01 | Ministry of Transport and Aviation | 60,586,100 |
| 406 | 01 | Ministry of Energy | 880,966,000 |
| 415 | 01 | Sierra Leone Maritime Administration | 106,898,200 |
| 203 | 01 | National Civil Registration Authority | 15,084,500 |
| 143 | 01 | Justice and Legal Service Commission | 1,065,800 |
| 313 | 01 | National Youth Service | 3,394,000 |
| 701 | 17 | Moyamba District Council | 16,269,616 |
| 701 | 08 | Bombali District Council | 10,982,486 |

PROCEDURE

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, in performing its functions, the Committee distributed questionnaires to the various MDAs under its scrutiny.

As required under **S.O 66 [1]**, the Committee further requested vote controllers of MDAs under its consideration to make appearance with their accounting officers, among others, and all relevant documents that could enhance its work.

In addition to the above, the Committee was also guided by the relevant provisions contained in the Government Budgeting and Accountability Act, 2005; the Financial Administration Regulations of 1998; the Public Financial Management (PFM) Act 2016 and the Fiscal Management Control Act 2017.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EXERCISE

Mr. Chairman Honourable Members, mindful of the overall objectives of the entire exercise, the Committee took into account the following key objectives:

- i. to ensure that vote controllers account for all public resources that were under their control and management during the large part of the Financial Year [FY] under review;
- ii. to enable vote controllers to provide convincing and reasonable justification for their intentions to judiciously expend proposed allocations for the Financial Year, 2024.
- iii. to assess and ascertain the realistic and justifiable nature of budget submissions by MDAs in tandem with the development aspirations of the Government; and
- iv. to strengthen the culture of transparency and accountability in the control and management of public resources channeled to vote controllers for national development.

GENERAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee took note of key observations in the course of its hearings as highlighted below , and recommends as follow:

- i. That the majority of MDAs that were examined were not provided with adequate budgetary allocations as approved by Parliament. Where allocations were provided, they were not made available on timely fashion. This occurrence is largely undermining the ability of MDAs to meet their performance targets. The Committee therefore recommends that Parliament give serious consideration to this situation with the view to improve on same in the financial years ahead.
- ii. That some MDAs reported to have benefited supplementary budgetary allocation without recourse to Parliament as required under Section 112 (3) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991. The Committee is therefore drawing the attention of the House to this seeming violation of Constitutional requirement with the view to apply corrective measures and enforce strict adherence to such legal provision.
- iii. That the mobilization of revenue including own source revenue for most revenue generating MDAs and the Local Councils remain a very big challenge. This was evident in the reports of MDAs that are concerned. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the capacity of revenue generating entities be strengthened in order to enable them undertake effective revenue mobilization.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the current holder of the Office of the Chief Minister serves as the Chief Innovation Officer of the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Chief among his role is to also serve as adviser to the President and the Vice President. He also coordinates and works with other Ministries, Departments and Agencies to deliver on the Government's agenda.

The Office comprises of other offices such as the Office of Presidential Infrastructure Initiative, Governance Advisory Unit and Delivery and Performance Tracking. The Office the Chief Minister is a non-revenue generating institution.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, below is a table containing budget analysis for the Office of the Chief Minister.

Budget analysis on Chief Minister's Office

| No | Details | Amount (NLe) | Total |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | Budget Approved by Parliament | 24,115,700 | 24,115,700 |
| 2 | Actual budget Allocated (Q1 to Q3) | 48,800,836.78 | 48,800,836.78 |
| 3 | Actual Budget Received (Q1 to Q3) | 48,800,836.78 | 48,800,836.78 |
| 5 | Total Recurrent Expenditures | 51,166,649.99 | 51,166,649.99 |

Key Findings

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee's scrutiny into the financial transactions of the above mentioned Office revealed that the Office of the Chief Minister received an excess budgetary allocation amounting to NLe 24,685,136.78. However, the Office attributed the said excess to funds received for the Tripartite operations and other projects placed under the rubric RACODI which were implemented by the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA).

In a similar vein, the Committee also observed that the Office of the Chief Minister expended resources far more than was allocated to it. Accounting for its expenditure, the Office said that the excess in its expenditure was as a result of logistical cost covered during local travels undertaken by His Excellency, the President.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, for the Financial Year 2025, the Office of the Chief Minister submitted a budgetary request of NLe 35,850,000 to the Ministry of Finance. Following scrutiny by the Ministry of Finance it was reduced to 24,115,700. The Committee recommends its approval by the House.

107 01 Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, the Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs is a non-revenue generating Institution. This Ministry's management and administration heavily depend on the central government's assistance. With the key mandates to Provide an effective link between national development priorities and local-level development initiatives, Build Local Councils' capacities to lead and coordinate key actors to leverage local economic growth and provide infrastructure for economic activities in their respective localities., Strengthen coordination between and among Ministries, Local Councils, and Service Delivery Agencies, to bring about more effective service delivery for local people across the country. Reform chiefdom governance in line with the decentralization framework and principles of good governance and Build the capacities of key functionaries of the Chiefdom Administrative Units to effectively perform their sacred functions of ensuring the people of Sierra Leone live in an environment of peace, stability, and development, and one in which respect for customs and tradition is maintained as the foundation for social harmony and peaceful co-existence.

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, the Committee reviewed the Ministry's financial transactions for the period under review, as illustrated in the table below, and noted key observations.

Budget Analysis of the Ministry for the Financial Year 2024

| No | Details | Amount (NLe) | Total |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 | Budget Approved by Parliament | 10,861,300 | 10,861,300 |
| 3 | Actual Budget Received (Q1 to Q3) | 7,505,300 | 7,505,300 |
| 5 | Total Recurrent Expenditures | 6,878,700 | 6,878,700 |

Key Findings

As part of its yearly approved deliverables for the FY, 2024, the Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs outlined the following key deliverables: Administrative cost—and Monitoring & supervision of Local Council Activities. The Ministry submitted an initial budget of NLe 14,638 to the Ministry of Finance for the 2024 but it was reduced to NLe 10,861,300 as illustrated in the table above.

For FY 2024, the disbursement received by the Ministry as GoSL regular budget was NLe 2,256,000.8. In addition, the Ministry reported receipt of a supplementary allocation amounting to NLe 4,427,000.7. The Ministry also confirmed receipt of NLe 200,000 and NLe 620,000 as grant from the Institute for Governance Reform (IGR) and revenue from local tax, respectively. Hence, the total moneys received by the Ministry amounted to NLe 7,505,000.3. Findings into the Ministry's expenditure for the period under review revealed that the sum of NLe 6,878,000.7 was expended covering various deliverables such as the monitoring and supervision of local council activities and chiefdom administrations, the review of Chiefdom Class system in various local communities, the delivery of customized medallion and staff of honour to Paramount Chiefs and other Traditional Leaders, etc.

Among critical challenges which affected the implementation of its programmes included, but not limited to the lack adequate staff strength, electricity and the delay by the Ministry of Finance to disburse allocation of funds.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, taking into account its development aspirations in 2025, the Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs submitted a budgetary estimate of NLe 5,686,000 to the Ministry of Finance. Following review, the Ministry's proposed budgetary allocation as indicated in the Appropriation Act, 2025 was increased to NLe 13,361,600, comprising allocations to the Ministry, the Provincial Secretaries' Offices and SCARDSIL. In respect of the above, the Committee views the 2025 budgetary allocation to the Ministry as adequate and recommends its approval.

107 02 Southern Province – Bo

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Provincial Secretary's Office Southern Region is stationed in the BO district. The Office of the Provincial Secretary-Southern Province is handling an increase in workload in order to meet the demands of the decentralized service delivery.

As shown in the table below, the Committee, Mr. Chairman, and Honorable Members critically reviewed the Secretariat's financial transactions during the reviewed period and made important notes.

Budget Analysis for the Financial Year 2024

| No | Details | Amount (NLe) | Total |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1 | Budget Approved by Parliament | 4,630,500 | 4,630,500 |
| 2 | Actual budget Allocated (Q1 to Q3) | 4,630,500 | 4,630,500 |
| 3 | Actual Budget Received (Q1 to Q3) | 2,737,783.8 | 2,737,783.8 |
| 5 | Total Recurrent Expenditures | 2,737,783.8 | 2,737,783.8 |

Key Findings

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Provincial Secretary's Office's original budget submission for the FY 2024 to the Ministry of Finance was NLe 5,500,000.00 with a Budget ceiling of NLE 4,630,500. However, NLE 4,630,500 was approved and allocated to the Secretariat.

For the year under review, the Office, as of September 30th, 2024, had received a total regular budget of NLe 3,583.3 and a supplementary budget of NLe 2,734,200, totaling NLE 2,737,783.8

The supplementary budget allocation was meant for hosting the President on his visits. In total, therefore, the PS Office received a total of NLe 2,737,738.8 and expended the same with convincing supporting documents. Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members, for the 2025 FY, the Provincial Secretary's Office made a budget submission of NLe 5,197,300 to the Ministry of Finance with the same amount as the budget ceiling, and the amount is yet to be approved.

The Committee viewed the allocation made to the Provincial Secretary's Office, Southern Province, as adequate and recommended its approval.

107 03 Eastern Province – Kenema

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, the need for local administration and service delivery is growing quickly. To satisfy the demands of the decentralized service delivery, the Office of the Provincial Secretary- Eastern Province is dealing with increasing work. The Office is situated in Kenema.

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, and the Committee analytically revised the Secretariat's financial transactions for the period under review, as illustrated in the table below, and noted key observations.

Budget Analysis for the Financial Year 2024

| No | Details | Amount (NLe) | Total |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | Budget Approved by Parliament | 4,234,400 | 4,234,400 |
| 2 | Actual budget Allocated (Q1 to Q3) | 3,055,000.400 | 3,055,000.400 |
| 3 | Actual Budget Received (Q1 to Q3) | 2,804.000 | 2,804.000 |
| 5 | Total Recurrent Expenditures | 2,804.000 | 2,804.000 |

Key Findings

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, in 2024 FY, the Provincial Secretary's Office, East submitted a budget of NLE 4,580,200 and was allocated Le 3,055,000 with a ceiling of NLE 4,580,200. The total expenditure for the period under review was NLE 2,804,000.

For FY2025, the Provincial Secretariat East submitted a budget of NLE 5,609,000.9 with the same budget ceiling advised by the Ministry of Finance, and NLE 4,609,000 was approved.

Examination of the Provincial Secretariat challenges revealed that delays in the release of funds by the Ministry of Finance affected the Secretariat's operations. Also, Imprest allocations to the Secretariat offices have been possible due to MOF's proactive response. The Secretariat is challenged with mobility and office equipment which derails effective administration of the Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance gives additional allocation to Provincial Secretary's Office to procure the equipment and vehicles for effective and efficient running of the Secretariat.

The Committee viewed the allocation made to the Provincial Secretary's Office, East, as adequate and recommended its approval.

404 01 Ministry of Transport and Aviation

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry under review is responsible for ensuring that there is safe and reliable transport system in Sierra Leone among the three main transport systems including road, marine and air transport systems. However, it is important to note that the various modes of transportation in the transport sector are being regulated by statutory bodies. The Ministry, on the other hand is only providing oversight function over the development and implementation of policies which govern the existing autonomous and semi-autonomous parastatals within the transport sector.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, below is a table containing the financial details of the Ministry for the period under review (FY 2024) and the Committee's findings on same.

Budget Analysis of the Ministry for F.Y 2024

| No | Details | Amount (NLe) | Total (NLe) |
|----|------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1 | GoSL Regular Budget (Q1 Q 3) | 3,905,007 | 3,905,077 |
| 2 | Amount received and expended | 3,905,007 | 3,905,007 |
| | Grand Total | | 3,905,007 |

Key Findings

That in addition to the Government Regular Budget reported in the table above, the Ministry also confirmed receipt of a World Bank/IDA grant amounting to US\$ 50 Million and a counterpart funding of US\$ 2 Million from the Government of Sierra Leone towards the implementation of the Sierra Leone Integrated Resilient Urban Mobility Project (SLIRUMP). This was followed by another project at the tune of US\$ 74,000,000 towards the implementation of Connectivity and Agricultural Market Infrastructure Project. The objective of this Project is to enhance climate-

resilient transport connectivity and agricultural market access in selected areas of Sierra Leone. The implementing partners included the Ministry itself, the Sierra Leone Roads Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and food Security.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry submitted a budget request to the tune of NLe 336,551,300 to the Ministry of Finance in line with its development aspirations in 2025. Following review, it was reduced to **NLE 60,586,100** In this respect, the Committee views the proposed budgetary allocation to the said Ministry as adequate and recommends its approval.

406 01 Ministry of Energy

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Energy has a vision to create an enabling environment for the creation of modern energy services for increased productivity, wealth creation and improved quality of life for all Sierra Leoneans.

To achieve the above, the Ministry is developing policies and programmes for the provision of energy (electrical and otherwise) on a constant, affordable and sustainable basis to the entire population of Sierra Leone.

As such, the Ministry is responsible to formulate and implement policies, projects and programmes on energy and provide oversight function across the entire energy supply chain.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee critically reviewed the Ministry's financial transactions for the period under review as illustrated in the table below and noted key observations.

Budget analysis For the Financial Year 2024

| No | Details | Amount (NLe) | Total |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 | Budget Approved by Parliament | 900,866,300 | 900,866,300 |
| 2 | Actual budget Allocated (Q1 to Q3) | 900,866,300 | 900,866,300 |
| 3 | Actual Budget Received (Q1 to Q3) | 2,076,073.50 | 2,076,073.50 |
| 5 | Total Recurrent Expenditures | 138,277,400 | 138,277,400 |

Key Findings

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee observed that the Ministry's expenditure for the period under review stood at **NLe 138,277,400** thereby indicating an excess in its total actual budget receipt as illustrated in the table above. Accounting for the excess amount of NLe 136,201,326.50, received for the same period under review, the Ministry said that the amount in question was allocated for services provided by Independent Power Producers (IPPs) such as Car Power, Transco/CLSG, etc.

Probing further, the Committee questioned the Ministry's reported expenditure on repairs and maintenance. In its submission the Ministry attributed the high cost of spending to the age of the vehicles stating that the vehicles in question were more than five years old. The Committee therefore recommended that the Ministry be considered in the procurement of new vehicles so as to save the high cost of repairs and maintenance. In a like manner, the Committee expressed concerned over the existence of several bank accounts under the Ministry. The Ministry responded that the accounts in question were projects accounts and that the majority of them were non-operational. The Permanent Secretary therefore assured the Committee that he would ensure the closure of all inactive accounts.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, notwithstanding the Ministry's broad mission to provide energy service on a constant, affordable and sustainable basis to the entire population of Sierra Leone the Ministry of Finance has allocated the sum of NLe 880,966,000 for the Financial Year 2025, thereby indicating a shortfall of NLe 19,900,300 (2.2%) in its current budgetary allocation as opposed to the Financial Year under review. (See table above). The reduction, according to the Ministry, would affect the implementation of the following projects, among others:

- i. The electrification of seven districts/towns
- ii. The enhancement of rural renewable energy
- iii. The rehabilitation of Goma Hydropower
- iv. The rehabilitation and expansion of the Bo/Kenema Electricity, etc.

Against this background, the Committee recommends that a supplementary budget be provided be provided to the Ministry during the course of the Financial Year 2025 to enable it meet its operational targets.

415 01 Sierra Leone Maritime Administration (SLMA)

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration is an autonomous institution that was established by an Act of Parliament enacted in 2000 and the Merchant Shipping Act of 2003. It is responsible for the registration of ships and other vessels, as well as to regulate and develop improved standards of performance and practice in the shipping industry in Sierra Leone including the coastal and inland water transport system and marine environment.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration is not deriving budgetary allocation directly from the consolidated revenue fund. Rather, its operations and activities are funded directly from revenue it generates from its various revenue sources through the approval of its Board as provided by **Section 20 (3) of the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration Act, 2000**. Below therefore, is a table containing financial analysis of the Institution for the period under review. Important to note is that revenue generated by the Institution is entirely paid at the Treasury Single Account held at the Bank of Sierra Leone. On receipt of such funds the Bank usually split it into two leaving **20%** into the Account (TSA) and paid the remaining **80%** into the Account of the Institution for its operations and/or activities.

Financial Analysis of SLMA for F.Y 2024

| No | Details | Amount (NLe) | Total (NLe) |
|----|---|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Revenue Target as Approved by the Board | 203,393,968.69 | 203,393,968.69 |
| 2 | Amount Generated as @ 30/09/2024 | 106,303,694.65 | 106,303,694.65 |
| 3 | Amount Expended | 104,017,860.68 | 104,017,860.68 |

Key Findings

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, a detailed examination into the reasons responsible for the drop in the revenue target of the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration, the Committee was informed that the situation was predominantly caused by the existing concessions to some of the major mining companies operating in the country. This was followed by the delay in the domestication of major international instruments and other regulations.

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, mindful of its aspirations for the Financial Year 2025, the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration has submitted a revenue target of NLe 362,861,241.24 subject to the availability of favourable revenue mobilisation circumstances.

In line with the condition previously explained above, the Committee hereby recommends that the expenditure budget of the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration for the Financial Year 2025, be approved by the House.

203 01 National Civil Registration Authority (NCRA)

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

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, the Committee's finding on the revenue status of the Authority (NCRA) for the Financial Year 2024 revealed that a revenue projection of NLe 186,584,270 was made by the Authority. In the course of the financial year, the Authority generated NLe 108,304,272 through various sources including the following: sale of births and deaths certificates and other related services, registration of Adoption, registration of marriage, registration of divorces, sale of identity card and related services, etc. Further scrutiny revealed that the revenue generated was paid into the CRF as required by law. Consistent with its determination to generate more revenue in 2025, the Authority has projected a revenue target of NLe 205,154,777. To achieve this, the Authority recommended the following as sources for

revenue: Revenue from data sharing, data matching and harmonization with Financial Institutions and other Government Agencies and Revenue from ID verification system (e-kyc) from financial Institutions.

Accounting for the drop in its revenue projection, the Authority highlighted the following: inadequate awareness raising and public sensitization campaigns on the benefits associated in the registration of vital Statistics and identity services, low demand by citizens and non-citizens in the acquisition of identity cards (all categories), lack of enforcement by state authorities and financial institutions on the use of National Identification Number (NIN) as a pre-condition to access vital services, etc.

Below is a table containing financial analysis of the Authority for FY 2024 (NLe,000)

| | Amount Received from | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Total |
|---|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| 2 | GoSL Regular Budget | 1,594,000 | 1,594,000 | 1,594,000 | 4,782,000 |
| 5 | Donor Support (Vital Strategies Project) | 105,000 | 1,449,000 | 546,000 | 2,100,000 |
| | Total | 1,699,000 | 3,043,000 | 2,140,000 | 6,882,000 |

Key Findings

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, in 2024 Financial Year, Parliament approved NLe 7,084,500 for the implementation of programmes by the Authority. However, the Committee's scrutiny confirmed that the Ministry of Finance disbursed NLe 4,782,000 as regular budgetary allocation to the Authority. In addition, it was further confirmed that the Authority received additional funding amounting to NLe 2,100,000 for the implementation of strategic projects. Thus, bringing its total moneys received for the period under to NLe 6,882,000.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, to meet its operational cost and other development aspirations in 2025, the Authority submitted a budgetary estimates of NLe 68,848,200 to the Ministry of Finance. Following review, it was reduced to NLe 15,084,500. The Authority expressed dissatisfaction for the huge cut in its budgetary submission, pointing the following, among others, as areas that would be affected by the deduction: training of permanent and other

allied staff involved in registration of vital events in communities, maintenance and upgrade of ICT & ID management infrastructure at headquarter, regional, district offices and other facilities to support transmission of data in real time including maintenance and upgrade of Back up Site, procurement of vehicles and motor bikes to support its expanded field operations on the registration and compilation of vital events, etc.

In view of the above, the Committee views the 2025 budgetary allocation to the National Civil Registration Authority as inadequate. The Committee recommends the approval of the proposed budgetary allocation to the Authority and the provision of a supplementary budget in the course of the Financial Year 2025.

143 01 Judicial and Legal Service Commission

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Judicial and Legal Service Commission was established by the **1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. 6 of 1991 pursuant to Section 140 (1)**. The Commission provides advice to the Chief Justice in the performance of his administrative functions. In addition, it performs oversight function over the Judiciary including the approval of its policies.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, below is a table containing financial analysis of the Commission for the Financial Year, 2024.

Budget analysis of the Commission for F.Y 2024

| No | Details | Amount (NLe) | Total |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1 | Budget Approved by Parliament | 1,065,800 | 1,065,800 |
| 2 | Actual budget Allocated (Q1 to Q3) | 239,800 | 239,800 |
| 3 | Actual Budget Received (Q1 to Q3) | 239,800 | 239,800 |
| 5 | Total Recurrent Expenditures | 129,500 | 129,500 |

Key Findings

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, from the table above the Committee observed that the Commission expended NLe 129,500.00 as at 30th September, 2024. Further critical examination

into its financial transactions revealed that the Commission maintained an account balance amounting to NLe 110,300.00 as at 30th September, 2024.

The Commission submitted a budget request of NLe 4,300,000 to the Ministry of Finance for the Financial Year, 2025. This was reduced to NLe 1,065,800 following review by the Ministry of Finance.

The Committee views the proposed budgetary allocation to the Judicial and Legal Service Commission for the Financial Year, 2025 as adequate and recommends its approval.

313 01 National Youth Service

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the aforementioned Institution came into existence through an Act of Parliament that was enacted in 2016. It was established to train graduates to serve the nation. For instance, **sub-section 2 (a) of Section 12** of the Act states one of the functions of the Service as: **(a) ‘generate national consciousness and discipline in service corps by instilling in them a tradition of patriotism, loyalty, integrity, duty and service to the nation’.**

The National Youth Service is not a revenue generating institution. The table below contains financial analysis of the Service for the period under review.

Budget analysis of the National Youth Service for 2024 FY.

| No | Details | Amount (NLe) | Total |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 | Budget Approved by Parliament | 3,394,900 | 3,394,900 |
| 2 | Actual budget Allocated (Q1 to Q3) | 3,891,700 | 3,891,700 |
| 3 | Actual Budget Received (Q1 to Q3) | 3,891,700 | 3,891,700 |
| 5 | Total Recurrent Expenditures | 3,979,706.25 | 3,979,706.25 |

Key Findings

In the ensuing examination of the financial transaction of the National Youth Service for the period under review revealed that, the Institution only received **NLe 891,700** from its recurrent budget. However, the sum of **NLe 3,000,000** was disbursed by the Ministry of Finance to meet

expenditures on graduates' service programmes which include trainings, uniforms, boots, belts, bags, feeding, etc, thus, bringing the total receipt of budgetary allocation to the Institution to **NLe 3,891,700**. In addition, Institution received **NLe 101,000** as opening bank balance in 2024 thereby bringing its total receipt to **NLe 3,992,700**. From that amount the National Youth Service expended **NLe 3,979,706.25** between the period January – September, 2024 and maintained a bank balance amount to **NLe 12,993.75** as at **30th September, 2024**.

Mindful of its expenditure For the Financial Year 2025, the National Youth Service submitted to the Ministry of Finance a budget proposal amounting to NLe 25,000,000 but this was reduced to NLe 3,394,000 following critical review. The reduction from its budgetary submission, according to the Institution, would affect the effective implementation of the following activities:

- The recruitment of more youth corps
- The procurement of uniforms and other materials for the youth corps
- Provision of feeding for corps at training centres/camps
- The recruitment of additional staff for the Institution, etc.

Mindful of the prevailing revenue situation, the Committee considers the proposed budgetary allocation to the National Youth Service for the Financial Year 2025 as adequate and recommends its approval by the House.

701 17 Moyamba District Council

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, the Chief Administrator of Moyamba District Council and her Team appeared before the Committee on **Monday 2nd December, 2024** in fulfillment of Parliamentary budgetary oversight. In the course of examining the Council's budgetary expenditure for the period under review, it was observed that the questionnaires presented before the Committee were not signed by the Chief Administrator of the Council in her capacity as vote controller. When asked to determine who should take responsibility for the documents before the Committee both the Chief Administrator and her Finance Officer refused to take responsibility as required under **Standing Order (S.O) 66 (1)**. As such, their conduct impeded the Committee's work. Therefore, they were re-scheduled for **Monday 9th December, 2024** thereby giving them an opportunity to make necessary corrections in the document and make proper appearance

before the Committee. To the utter dismay of the Committee the Chief Administrator and her team failed to adhere to the Committee's ruling of Monday **2nd December, 2024**. In spite of all efforts made by the Committee to ensure that they re-appear and justify how moneys allocated to them were utilized, they deliberately disregarded the authority of the Committee.

Recommendation

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, against this background, the Committee therefore recommends that the proposed budgetary allocation to the said Council for the Financial Year 2025 be withheld until moneys approved by Parliament for the administration of the Council in 2024 are adequately and satisfactorily accounted for.

701 08 Bombali District Council

The Bombali District Council lies in the North and Central part of Sierra Leone. Bombali District is the home to Makeni which is the third city of Sierra Leone. Its main economic activities include small-scale mining, the production of agricultural food crops, and small ruminants. The District Council exists to foster socioeconomic progress through improved and affordable social service delivery by involving the people whom decisions affect the most and improving the middleman power in the district.

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, and the Committee analytically revised the Council's financial transactions for the period under review, as illustrated in the table below, and noted key observations.

Budget Analysis for the Financial Year 2024

| No | Details | Amount (NLe) | Total |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | Budget Approved by Parliament | 7,351,662 | 7,351,662 |
| 2 | Actual budget Allocated (Q1 to Q3) | 4,467,254 | 4,467,254 |
| 3 | Actual Budget Received (Q1 to Q3) | 4,707,501 | 4,707,501 |
| 5 | Total Recurrent Expenditures | 12,004,167.32 | 12,004,167.32 |

Key Findings

In FY 2024, the Council made a budget submission of NLe 7,351,662 to the Ministry of Finance but was allocated NLe 4,467,254. According to the CA, those funds were utilized on key deliverables such as administrative costs, the establishment of 50 acres of Boli land for the District Rice Farm at Madina Loko, Gbendembu Chiefdom, the establishment of 15 hectares of Youth Cassava Farm, training of Rice Farmer on best Agronomics practice and establishment of the small ruminant farm.

For 2025 FY, the Council is yet to officially submit its budget to the Ministry of Finance but they have a budget ceiling advised by the Ministry of Finance to the tune of NLE 8,514,486. Key deliverables put forward by the council are monitoring and supervision through health information, enhancing effective and efficient sector management service delivery, health infrastructure and improvement at the community level, ensuring forest tree seedlings are available for forest planting, quarter radio discussions, family tracing and reunification, conveyance of juvenile offenders to approved schools and right of children promoted and protected.

Following discussions with The leadership team regarding the Council's difficulties showed that the Ministry of Finance's delayed disbursement of funds, insufficient funding, sector heads' unwillingness to cooperate in attending Council meetings, the Ministry of Finance's failure to pay property rates, and Sun Bird's years-long failure to pay surface rent all had a detrimental effect on service delivery.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, following a thorough examination of the Council's budget, the Committee deems the NLe 8,514,486 ceiling as adequate and recommends its approval. The Committee emphasizes the importance of efficient utilization of the allocated funds to achieve the outlined deliverables.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, kindly permits me to recognize and extend my deepest appreciation to Honourable Members and Staff of my Committee for their invaluable contribution and support throughout the course of the Committee's hearings with MDAs.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members, with the exception of Budget Head for Moyamba District Council, the Committee hereby recommends that the Report of the Sub-Appropriation Committee 2 on the review of the current and development budget estimates of ministries, departments and agencies under its purview for the Financial Year 2025 be adopted by this Honourable House and that the Budget Heads including Sub-Heads of MDAs listed below excluding Moyamba District Council, in respect of budgetary provisions for the Financial Year 2025 stand part of the schedule.

| Table Containing Recommended Vote Heads for Approval | | | |
|---|-----------------|--|------------------------------|
| Vote | Division | Vote Description | Total Sum Voted (NLe) |
| 106 | 01 | Office of the Chief Minister | 24,115,700 |
| 106 | 02 | Office of Presidential Infrastructure Initiative | 1,500,000 |
| 106 | 03 | Governance Advisory Unit | 752,700 |
| 106 | 04 | Delivery and Performance Tracking | 1,131,600 |
| 107 | 01 | Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs | 13,361,600 |
| 107 | 02 | Southern Province, Bo | 4,630,000 |
| 107 | 03 | Eastern Province, Kenema | 4,234,400 |
| 404 | 01 | Ministry of Transport and Aviation | 60,586,100 |
| 406 | 01 | Ministry of Energy | 880,966,000 |
| 415 | 01 | Sierra Leone Maritime Administration | 106,898,200 |
| 203 | 01 | National Civil Registration Authority | 15,084,500 |
| 143 | 01 | Justice and Legal Service Commission | 1,065,800 |
| 313 | 01 | National Youth Service | 3,394,000 |
| 701 | 17 | Moyamba District Council | 16,269,616 |
| 701 | 08 | Bombali District Council | 10,982,486 |

Thank you.

Submitted in faith by:



.....
**Honourable Boston Munda
Chairman.**

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Chairman.

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: Mr Chairman, I still have some issues

THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, you have some adverse recommendations? Please be brief.

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: Under Vote 70117; Moyamba District Council.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you are overlooking Moyamba and you are criticizing Moyamba.

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: Yes, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Chief Administrator of Moyamba District Council and her team appeared before the Committee on Monday, 2nd December, 2024 in fulfilment of the Parliamentary Budget Oversight. In the course of examining the Council's Budgetary Expenditure for the period under review, the Committee observed that the Questionnaires presented to the Committee were not signed by the Chief Administrator of the Council in her capacity as Vote Controller. When asked to determine who should take responsibility for the document before the Committee, both the Chief Administrator and her Finance Officer refused to take responsibility as required under Standing Order 66 [1]. As such, the conduct impeded the Committee's work; therefore they were rescheduled for Monday, 9th December, 2024, thereby giving them the opportunity to do the necessary corrections in the documents and to properly appear before the Committee.

Mr Chairman to our utter dismay, the Chief Administrator and her Finance Officer deliberately failed to appear before the Committee to justify how the monies allocated to them were utilized. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, against this backdrop, the Committee therefor recommends that the proposed Budgetary allocation to the said Council for the financial year 2025 be withheld until the money approved by this House for the administration of the Council in 2024 is satisfactorily accounted for.

THE CHAIRMAN: So Mr Chairman, you want us to withhold their Budget?

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: Yes Sir. Mr Chairman, their action was total affront to Members of Parliament, because they kept us waiting till the last minute and they could not appear before the Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: So I think that is an affront to Parliament and it constitutes contempt.

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: And Mr Chairman, we are made to understand that both the Chief Administrator and the Finance Officer are now transferred to other Districts respectively; hence the reason they refused to appear before the Committee at the expense of the incoming Chief Administrator and the Finance Officer.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Chairman, if you could allow me.

THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I know the situation is reported under Moyamba District Council, but holding their Vote now will only punish the people of Moyamba. What I would suggest is for this Parliament to stop the transfer of both the Finance Officer and the Chief Administrator, and also suspend them from work until they clear the mess they have created for the Moyamba District Council.

What the Chief Administrators normally do is that when they cause problems in the Councils, they ask for transfer and they leave the problems behind and they continue with the new Council. Now if you withhold the Budget of Moyamba Council, it is like you are depriving the entire Moyamba District from getting their own revenue; whilst the Chief Administrator and the Finance Officer will be going to new Districts to cause new problems. So I am suggesting that in as much as we call them to come and account for Moyamba, let this Parliament also take an action to suspend both the C.A and F.O from work with immediate effect.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Honourable Quintin.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, I believe for now we have Moyamba in front of us, but I would tell you for free that this is something that most Councils and MDAs are guilty of. And this is a test case for Parliament; if we fail on this, Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the others will emulate them. From my observations this year, most of the MDAs came with flimsy excuses regarding their documents. And that simply means that whatever reason this Sub-Appropriation was created for by this House is losing its value. So Mr Chairman, this is a test case that we must act on for others to learn from, thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: I give the Floor to the Mama of West Africa.

HON. VERONICA K SESAY: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Honourable Members is rather unfortunate to have heard from the Chairman of the Committee No.2 about the Moyamba District Council. It is very unfortunate for Members of Parliament coming from that District to hear such. Mr Chairman, I want to go along with the Honourable Member from the other side who requested for the transfer of the Chief Administrator and the Finance Officer to be put on hold until the matter is dealt with. I believe that some of these issues should be handled by the District Officer and Chairperson of the Local Government. I was expecting them to come along because the

righteous soul should not suffer for the wicked. This is a situation that may lead to the suffering of the entire Moyamba District. So if we fail to intervene, it will be a problem for us and the people who sent us here to represent them. So whatever the case, whether good or bad, it is our business to intervene. Therefore Mr Chairman, I am asking that the Chairman for Local Government and the Members of Parliament from that District come together so that we can solve the problem, thank you.

HO. BOSTON MUNDA: Mr Chairman, somebody has spoken on behalf of Moyamba, can we proceed?

THE CHAIRMAN: I would have to consider on the recommendation made by the Members of Parliament; either to withhold the Votes, or to allow the approval of the Vote, but we write to the Chairman of the Local Government Service Commission and summon both the Chairman of the commission and all Commissioners, including the Chief Administrator and the Finance Officer, or whosoever was supposed to be part of the delegation from Moyamba and we take appropriate action.

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, amidst that, the Chairman for Local Council and Community Affairs is the Deputy Chairman for Committee **No.2**, and he was part of the process- so please note that.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, now to the Conclusion and Recommendation: With the exception of the Budgetary Head for the Moyamba District Council, the Committee hereby recommends that the Report of the Sub-Appropriation Committee **No.2** on the review of the Current and Development Budget Estimates of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies under its purview for the Financial Year 2025, be adopted by this House. I therefore submit that the following Budget Heads listed below for the Financial Year 2025, excluding the Moyamba District Council, stand part of the schedule.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Boston Munda, before I put the Question to the Minister, I would want you to, on the understanding of the ruling, allow the Vote for Moyamba District Council to be part of the schedule, but the C.A, the Chairman for the Local Government Service Commission and all other responsible persons be summoned for scrutiny and further action.

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: Mr Chairman, again, I do not want to bore this House with the situation we encountered during that hearing; we gave them enough time to hang heads and they went out, they discussed and came back. We even extended it to another day so that somebody would come and take responsibility of that Report and none of them showed up.

THE CHAIRMAN: If we withhold the Budget for Moyamba, Moyamba is an entity but is not somebody. But if we request and summon the Chairman for the Commission and the responsible persons, I am sure we would be arriving at a point wherein somebody or group of persons will take responsibility for this.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, these Sub-Appropriation Committees are Committees of Parliament, and they are our creation to make work easier because you as Speaker and few Chairmen alone cannot interview all these MDAs and approve or disapproved their Budgets. So we must trust the processes and recommendations of the Committees we setup here.

So in as much as I agree with you for a variation of their recommendations, I equally believe that these two people, based on the report of the Sub-Appropriation Committee, be suspended immediately. We must trust the process; otherwise, I am afraid we would be opening doors wherein politics may come in and the situation will be compromised, thereby making the Committee look funny. It may be overruled, life continues as usual, and the Committee Members will see themselves funny. And by so doing, other Sub-Appropriation Committees would be demotivated to take appropriate actions. Mr

Chairman, we must be seen to prove to these people that once the Committees of Parliament take action or make a decision, it will stand. Therefore, I believe that the two people must be suspended with immediate effect, and at the same time summon all those concerned to give an explanation. I am not in support of withholding the budget because it is the masses that will suffer. So in the interim, the budget should not be withheld by the Ministry of Finance; the two staff whose actions have amounted to real affront to the Committee, and by extension to Parliament, must be suspended until further notice; until the investigation is done and we chat a way forward.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, I would not want to rule out the Chairman for Local Government, I would listen to him, but you have one minutes.

HON. MUSA FOFANAH: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I want to take up this opportunity to thank and also plead with the Chairman of Committee Group 2 that we go the other way. Mr Chairman, you can be assured that the Moyamba picture is bigger than what people are seeing, but to be very honest, we cannot punish the people of Moyamba District and leave the Council that is fully responsible for the action. Mr Chairman, you are fully aware of the way the Commission normally does things. Before the Moyamba District Council came here for this engagement, we engaged the Commission because we understood that the Commission Chairman wanted to do the transfers. We advised the Commission Chairman not to do those transfers until we completed our job but they refused to listen to us. So the best option is to approve the Budget and summon the Commission Chairman and the rest of the Moyamba District Council team for scrutiny, thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, I see and I have heard diverse opinions from Members of parliament, and take it that the trust of this house, the respect and dignity of this House must be maintained; that we should not allow individuals or groups or creations of this Parliament to affront the dignity of this Parliament. As such, the responsible persons; the C.A and the Finance Officer should be suspended with

immediate effect. And further to that, tomorrow at 9am, the Chairman for the Local Government Service Commission should come to Parliament to ensure that Letters for these two persons are signed and delivered to them. That is the resolution.

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: Mr Chairman, Suspension without salary, right?

THE CHAIRMAN: When you are suspended you should not be paid.

Honourable Members, this Parliament has agreed by a resolution from the Chair that Juliana Amara, the C.A and Alberta Barrie, the F.O are suspended with immediate effect without salary. Madam Minister, go ahead.

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

| Table Containing Recommended Vote Heads for Approval | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|------------------------------|
| Vote | Division | Vote Description | Total Sum Voted (NLe) |
| 106 | 01 | Office of the Chief Minister | 24,115,700 |
| 106 | 02 | Office of Presidential Infrastructure Initiative | 1,500,000 |
| 106 | 03 | Governance Advisory Unit | 752,700 |
| 106 | 04 | Delivery and Performance Tracking | 1,131,600 |
| 107 | 01 | Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs | 13,361,600 |
| 107 | 02 | Southern Province, Bo | 4,630,000 |
| 107 | 03 | Eastern Province, Kenema | 4,234,400 |
| 404 | 01 | Ministry of Transport and Aviation | 60,586,100 |
| 406 | 01 | Ministry of Energy | 880,966,000 |
| 415 | 01 | Sierra Leone Maritime Administration | 106,898,200 |
| 203 | 01 | National Civil Registration Authority | 15,084,500 |
| 143 | 01 | Justice and Legal Service Commission | 1,065,800 |
| 313 | 01 | National Youth Service | 3,394,000 |
| 701 | 17 | Moyamba District Council | 16,269,616 |
| 701 | 08 | Bombali District Council | 10,982,486 |

[QUESTION PROPOSED, PUT AND AGREED TO]

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

GROUP TWELVE

VOTES

10701,10704,10705,11008,11010,13501,13502,13503,21101,30201,30601,31201, 31401,32201, and 40302 to stand part of the schedule.

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

Table 1: MDAs Account Heads and their Allocations for 2025 FY:

| Vote | Div. | Vote Description | Amount [NLe] |
|-------------|-------------|--|---------------------|
| 107 | 01 | Falaba District Council | 6,459,556 |
| 107 | 4 | Provincial Secretary's Northern Province, Makeni (withheld) | 4,573,900 |
| 107 | 5 | Provincial Secretary's North West Province, Port Loko | 4,008,100 |
| 110 | 8 | Law Reform Commission | 2,299,700 |
| 110 | 10 | Local Government Service Commission | 2,473,800 |
| 135 | 1 | Ministry of Communication, Technology and Innovation | 4,500,000 |
| 135 | 2 | Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation (withheld) | 3,960,700 |
| 135 | 3 | Felei Tech City [New Agency] | 500,000 |
| 211 | 1 | Immigration Department | 4,939,900 |
| 302 | 1 | Ministry of Sport | 5,799,800 |
| 306 | 1 | Ministry of Lands and Country Planning | 7,300,200 |
| 312 | 1 | Teaching Service Commission | 4,960,700 |
| 314 | 1 | National HIV and AIDS Commission | 2,829,100 |

| | | | |
|-------|---|--|------------|
| 322 | 1 | National Land Commission of Sierra Leone | 4,526,500 |
| 403 | 2 | National Minerals Agency (NMA) | 4,215,900 |
| Total | | | 63,247,856 |

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before I put the question for the Chairman to lay the Report, if there are any adverse findings, in addition to the Budget for the Provincial Secretaries, Northern Province, Makeni, I would want to question the inclusion of Felie-Tech City as an Agency; how comes?

Madam Minister, Can you tell us; I see Felie-Tech City as a new Agency. Was it setup by an Act of Parliament or is it the decision of the Ministry of Finance?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Mr Chairman, I apologize; that may have been a typographical error. I do not think Tech City is a new Agency; it is under the Ministry of Communication Technology and Innovation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very well! Then I would allow it to stand. If you call it a new Agency, then we have to remove it.

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

HON. VERONICA KADIE SESAY: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table the Committee of Supplier's Report of the Appropriation Committee **No.12**.

I. INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Minister of Finance, in tandem with Sections **107 (1)** of the **Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No. 6 of 1991** prepared and laid before Parliament the Government Budget and Statement of Economic and Financial Policies for the Financial Year **(FY) 2025** on Friday 10th November, 2024. The theme of the budget is: **“Improving the Well-Being and Quality of Life of Sierra Leoneans”**

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, Parliament's traditional function of budget scrutiny enables it to review expenditures of MDAs in order to ascertain accountability for allocated funds and such power allows Parliament to get first-hand insight into how proposed budgets align with government policies. In other words, the exercise is meant to ensure that monies allocated to MDAs and approved by Parliament are judiciously utilized in line with **Section 112, sub sections (1 to 5) of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No. 6 of 1991 and Section 3 (a & b)**

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, in conformity with **Section 112 (6) of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No.6 of 1991 and Standing Orders 64 (1) of the revised Standing Orders of Parliament of Sierra Leone**, I hereby, on behalf of the Members of Sub Appropriation Committee twelve (12), present its report on the budget hearings of the recurrent and development expenditure estimates of MDAs under its purview for 2025.

III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, at this juncture, I would like to register my sincere thanks and appreciation, on behalf of the Committee, to the Office of the Clerk for its support in achieving this exercise. I am also grateful to all the MDAs that appeared before the Committee notwithstanding their busy schedules.

In particular, I would like to register my thanks and appreciation to the Members of the Committee for their cooperation, commitment and dedication throughout the sittings and that further convinced me that all of them have the potential to take up Leadership positions in the House in the not too distant future.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, I will remise in my duty of expressing appreciation if I fail to recognize the Department of Committees whose Clerks were pivotal in ensuring the success of the exercise from inception to completion. In addition, I also recognize the work of the Parliamentary Budget Office for its immense support in reviewing estimates of MDAs. Last but not the least, I recognize and acknowledge the support of staff from the Sargent-at-Arms office and Parliamentary Press Gallery.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE EXERCISE

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, without prejudice to S.O 66 (1), Sub-Appropriation Committee twelve (12) undertook this exercise to achieve the following objective:

- * To ensure Vote Controllers account for all public resources that were under their control and management during the last three (3) quarters of the Financial Year (FY) under review;
- * To strengthen the culture of transparency and accountability in the control and management of public resources entrusted to vote controllers for national development;
- * To identify, if any, the challenges faced by the MDAs assigned to the Committee;
- * To find out if MDAs 2025 budgetary submissions were in line with their work plans and activities implementations;
- * To enable Vote Controllers and their Accountants and Finance Personnel justify the figures factored in their recurrent and development expenditure estimates for 2025; and
- * Whether the MDAs adhered to National Public Financial Management Regulations as means of enhancing accountability in the utilization of public resources allocated in the 2024 budget.

V. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, during the exercise, the following general observations and recommendations were noted:

1. The hearings were scheduled for a specific period and MDAs were therefore requested to submit their questionnaires at least a week before the commencement of the hearings. The aim was to ensure that MPs and Parliament Budget Office (PBO) have enough time to peruse the completed questionnaires in advance of the sittings. However, most of the MDAs did not comply with the submission deadline.

In this regard, the Committee strongly recommends that Parliament insists on MDAs to comply with early submission of completed questionnaires in the coming years.

2. By law, MDAs are allocated funds to carry out their functions in line with their deliverables and Parliament usually approves such allocations. Unfortunately, MDAs hardly receive from MoF their complete allocations approved by Parliament.

To address this situation, the Committee recommends that MoF ensures that MDAs received their full allocations approved by Parliament in a timely manner.

3. Parliament enacted the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Act 2022 on 15th November 2022 with the aim to improve the status of women in society through access to finance, employment opportunities, equal pay, maternity leave, among others. In addition, the GEWE establishes a 30 percent quota for women's participation in government. Therefore, the Committee expected MDAs appearing before it to constitute an appreciating number of women. Unfortunately, very few MDAs appeared before the Committee with women.

Therefore, the Committee recommends that MDAs take the lead in ensuring that women play leading roles in the performance of their functions. That aside, Parliament, through the relevant Committees, monitor the implementation of the provisions of the GEWE Act and those found wanting to be brought to book.

4. The Committee further observed that there is too much political interference in the administration of MDAs, especially in councils. In Councils, the Chief Administrators (CAs), as the name implies, are the Administrative Heads of these institutions and therefore regarded as Vote Controllers. In as much as the Mayors and Chairmen are above C.A's in the structural hierarchy, they must not interfere with the functions of the CA's and vise-versa. Otherwise, conflict will ensue which will definitely cripple the developmental aspirations of the Councils in diverse ways.

To ameliorate this situation, the Committee recommends that the Committee on Local Government and Community Affairs engages Political and Administrative Heads of Councils. If necessary, the Local Council Act can be reviewed to address the issues of roles and responsibilities.

5. Pursuant to **Section 118 (7) of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No. 6 of 1991**, Parliament is to be notified by the relevant Minister or authority of all donations, grants, gifts and pledges made to the State of Sierra Leone. The Committee observed

that MDAs that receive these donations, grants, gifts and pledges have failed to comply with the Constitutional requirement.

With the view to conform with constitutionality, the Committee recommends that, going forward, Parliament certifies any MDA that complies with this requirement. Failure to do so, Parliament must take stringent actions against any MDAs that default.

6. The appropriation is a Constitutional mandate that must be adhered to by all MDAs. Unfortunately, the Committee observed that the Directorate of Science, Technology and Initiative (DSTI) and Office of the Provincial Secretary, Northern Province, Makeni deliberately did not comply with the law. As representatives of the people who are beneficiaries of the work of these MDAs, the Committee, through its Lead Clerk of the appropriation exercise, made several attempts to engage heads of these institutions on the importance of the exercise and the consequences of failing to appear before the Committee to defend their budget. All the engagements proved futile.

The Committee considers this an affront to the dignity of Parliament and therefore recommends not only the withholding of the budgets of these MDAs but for Parliament to also take the necessary action against heads of these MDAs to stamp out impunity and disrespect.

7. In FY 2024, Government encountered many challenges that seriously hampers the State's economic buoyancy and spending on infrastructure and social services. These include the continued Ukraine-Russian War, global fall of the price of minerals (gold, iron ore, bauxite, rutile); attempted coups, unregulated attempted protests, servicing public debts, inflation, among others.

Notwithstanding all of these challenges, the Government manages to increase allocations to four (4) MDAs; maintains eight (8); and decreases two (2) out of the fifteen (15) reviewed by the Committee for FY 2025 as justified by the table below:

Table 2: MDAs allocations in 2024 and 2025 and the percentage increment.

| Name of Institution (MDAs) | 2024 Allocation | 2025 Allocation | Change | Decrease/ Increase |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| | NLe | NLe | NLe | % |
| Falaba District Council | 4,688,002.00 | 6,459,556.00 | 1,771,554.00 | 37.79 |
| Provincial Secretary's Northern Province, Makeni (withheld) | 4,573,900.00 | 4,573,900.00 | | - |
| Provincial Secretary's North West Province, Port Loko | 4,008,100.00 | 4,008,100.00 | | - |
| Law Reform Commission | 2,031,700.00 | 2,299,700.00 | 268,000.00 | 13.19 |
| Local Government Service Commission | 2,010,600.00 | 2,473,800.00 | 463,200.00 | 23.04 |
| Ministry of Communication, Technology and Innovation | 5,000,000.00 | 4,500,000.00 | (500,000.00) | (10.00) |
| Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation (withheld) | 3,960,700.00 | 3,960,700.00 | | - |
| Felei Tech City (New Agency) | - | 500,000.00 | 500,000.00 | |
| Immigration Department | 8,939,900.00 | 4,939,900.00 | (4,000,000.00) | (44.74) |
| Ministry of Sport | 5,526,500.00 | 5,799,800.00 | 273,300.00 | 4.96 |
| Ministry of Lands and Country Planning | 7,300,200.00 | 7,300,200.00 | | - |
| Teaching Service Commission | 6,460,700.00 | 4,960,700.00 | (1,500,000.00) | (23.22) |
| National HIV and AIDS Commission | 2,829,100.00 | 2,829,100.00 | | - |
| National Land Commission of Sierra Leone | 4,526,500.00 | 4,526,500.00 | | - |
| National Minerals Agency (NMA) | 4,215,900.00 | 4,215,900.00 | | 0.00 |

In view of the above, the Committee firstly commends Government especially the National Revenue Authority, Ministry of Finance, all revenue generation MDAs and donor partners for ensuring that the funds needed by these MDAs to perform their functions are available. Secondly, the Committee encourages the National Revenue Authority, Ministry of Finance and all revenue generation MDAs to scale up their revenue generation in 2025 FY. Also, the Committee calls on MDAs to

bear in mind that Government revenue stream is not fleshy to accommodate expenditures and that the days of relying on donors are far gone. Therefore, MDAs are encouraged to continue to prioritize their expenditures, taking into consideration “value for money”.

VI. SPECIFIC FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

VOTE: 107-01 FALABA DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, Falaba District Council is one of the two districts councils created as a result of the de-amalgamation in 2018. The Council has thirteen (13) Chiefdom and eighteen (18) political wards and its vision is to improve the quality of life of the people living in the district through the provision of essential social, economic and infrastructural services in a transparent, participatory and sustainable manner.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, Falaba District Council FY 2024 budget submitted to MoF was **NLe 6,828,390** but was allocated **NLe 4,688,002**. However, the council, as at 30th September 2024, had received thus:

GoSL Regular Budget NLe 4,168,246

Grant NLe 2,548,860

Own Source Revenue NLe 187,387

Total amount received NLe 6,904,493

Of the amount received from all sources, the council had expended **NLe 6,445,758** in line with its deliverables in agriculture, library, gender, education, feeder road maintenance, accountable governance and basic service delivery, rural water, among many others.

On revenue generation and utilization, the council 2024 FY revenue target was **NLe 703,260** but impressively collected revenue of **NLe 187,387**, exceeding its target by a

significant percentage. According to the Chief Administrator, the Council could have done more but for the following reasons:

- Bad road network;
- Lack of functional cadastral system;
- Conflicting laws; and
- Lack of mobility

As to its utilization, the Committee observed that the revenue is shared between the Council (60%) and the Chiefdom Administration (40%) and the 60% of Council was used to finance different projects that have been completed.

As for FY 2025, the Council's revenue generation projection is **NLe 453,419**

For FY 2025, the Council budget submitted to MoF was **NLe 6,659,556**. However, MoF made an allocation of **NLe 6,459,556** to the Council subject to Parliament approval.

The Committee considers the allocation made to the Council for FY 2025 as adequate and recommends its approval.

**VOTE: 107- 06 PROVINCIAL SECRETARY's OFFICE, NORTH WEST REGION,
PORT LOKO**

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Provincial Secretary's Office North West Region, came into being after the creation of Karene District in the North West region of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Provincial Secretary's Office's original budget submission to MoF was **NLe 4,008,100** and the same amount was approved. As at September 30th 2024, the Office had received **NLe 2,705,000** and this entire amount had been expended before appearing before the Committee. The expenditures of the Provincial Secretary's Office North West Region indicate that a greater sum of the total allocations so far received was expended on hosting H. E The Vice President in the

region and facilitate the Resident Minister's movements within the region in a bid to engage stakeholders on issues of peace, security and national cohesion.

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members, for 2025 FY, the Provisional Secretary's Office made a budget submission of **NLe 4,008,100** to MoF and that same amount was allocated to the office pending approval by Parliament.

The Committee considered the allocation made to the Provincial Secretary's Office, North West, as adequate and recommends its approval.

VOTE: 110-08 LAW REFORM COMMISSION

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

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

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, for FY 2024, the Commission's budget submission to MoF was **NLe 3,278,400** but however allocated **NLe 1,828,400** and same was approved by Parliament. For the same year, the Commission received thus:

GoSL Regular Budget **NLe 914,200**

Donations/Grants/Loans **NLe 1,644,688**

Other Revenues **USD\$ 53,224**

Total Received **NLe 2,558,888 and USD\$ 53,224**

According to the Secretary to the Commission, while the **NLe 1,644,688** donation was from UNDP to undertake the review of the Police Act 1964, the **USD\$ 53,224** was from Law Reform Initiative company meant to conclude ongoing projects more so the review of the Offenses Against the Person Act 1861; the review of the Law of Evidence; the review of the Courts Act 1965 and the review of the Law on Partnership.

On expenditure, the Committee observed the Commission had expended thus:

GoSL Regular Budget **NLe 903,873**

Donations/Grants/Loans **NLe 103,198**

Total expenditure **NLe 1,007,071**

While it was observed that the expenditures were done in line with the Commission's deliverables, the funds from the Law Reform Initiative were yet to be expended.

For FY 2025, the Commission budget submission to MoF was **NLe 3,056,296** but was allocated **NLe 2,299,700**. Disclosing the discomfort the decrease of its original budget submitted would cause, the Commission said it would affect overall service delivery of the institution thereby resulting into low productive outcome in the reform and update of the Laws of Sierra Leone.

VOTE: 110-10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Local Government Service Commission was established under Section 35 of the Local Government Act 2022 as a Government body in charge of Human Resource Management of the Local Councils in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Local Government Service Commission's budget submission to MoF for FY 2024 was **NLe 3,881,000** but was allocated **NLe 2,010,600**. For the same year, the Commission received from GoSL a total of **NLe 904,800** (quarters 2nd and 3rd) and a grant from UNDP of **NLe 368,000** In total

therefore, the Commission received **NLe 1,264,800**. According to the Executive Secretary, whilst the amount received from Government was expended in line with the Commission's FY 2024 deliverables, the UNDP grant was tied to the implementation of newly Revised Human Resource guidelines.

From its expenditure analysis, the Committee observed that the Commission, up to 30th September 2024, had expended **NLe 1,303,000** in line with its deliverables, accounting an excess expenditure of **NLe 38,500,000** from the total received. Clarifying this over expenditure, Commission informed the Committee **NLe 38,500,000** was a brought forward from FY 2023.

For FY 2025, the Commission made a budget submission of **NLe 5,615,000** but the actual amount allocated and pending approval by Parliament was **NLe 2,010,000**. According to the Vote Controller, the significant cut of the Commission's will further pose challenges to its operations more so in the following areas:

- Capacity building of the Commission staff and local council staff;
 - Procurement of vehicles and motor bikes;
 - Monitoring, evaluation and supervision of local councils;
 - Performance appraisal system for the local councils; and
- Annual retreat

Considering the Commission's role in supervising and managing the human resource of councils for effective service delivery, the Committee considers its 2025 allocation inadequate and recommends a supplementary in its favour.

**VOTE: 135-01 MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION, TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION**

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Ministry of Communication, Technology and Innovation, popularly known as MoCTI, was established to provide oversight of the communication, technology and innovation sectors as well as creating the enabling environment for the implementation of policies, regulations and strategies, research and development initiatives. In doing so, MoCTI provides the platform for the development and implementation of innovative solutions, promoting digital inclusion and bridging the digital divide gap.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, MoCTI's 2024 FY budget submitted to MoF was **NLe 18,671,124** but was allocated **NLe 5,000,000** and this amount was approved by Parliament. In terms of actual allocation received, MoCTI received from GoSL regular budget thus:

Quarter 1: NLe 1,125,000

Quarter 2: NLe 1,225,315

Quarter 3: NLe 2,000,000

Total: NLe 4,350,315

Additionally, MoCTI received a total financial support of **NLe 930,000** from National Communications Authority (NatCA) and Sierra Rutile Limited meant for the 2024 Innovation

Tech Summit. Put together, MoCTI's total amount received as at 30th September for FY 2024 was **NLe 5,280,315**.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, for the year under review, MoCTI incurred a total expenditure of **NLe 4,349,625** in tandem with its deliverables, less **NLe 930,690** of the total received.

Responding to questions on the unexpended amount, the Vote Controller informed the Committee, with supporting evidence that the unexpended amount is meant for

projects and programmes to be completed in the last quarter of the year. Also, part of it would be used to pay suppliers.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, MoCTI's budget submitted to MoF for FY 2025 was **NLe 28,884,805** but was allocated **NLe 4,500,000** which awaits parliamentary approval. Analyses of these figures indicate that MoCTI's budget was slashed by **NLe 24,384,805**. Commenting on the huge cut to the institution's budget submitted for FY 2025, the Vote Controller disclosed that it would affect the following areas:

- His Excellency the President commitment to develop technology and innovation drive; and
- E-Governance activities that are needed to provide the ICT environment for MDAs to take the digital services and other key deliverables

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, bearing in mind the criticality of technology and innovation infrastructure in contemporary society especially in education, health, security, the Committee views the allocation to MoCTI inadequate and recommends a supplementary budget in its favour.

VOTE: 135-3 FELEI TECH CITY

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, Felei Tech City is new Agency of Government under the Ministry of Communications, Technology and Innovation and it was unveiled by H. E President Julius Maada Bio this year. The construct of an ultra-modern Tech City is aimed at strengthening the technology ecosystem and provide facilities to incubate and accelerate programs to support the transition of start- ups from development technology ideas to commercialization. Felei Tech City is poised to become Sierra Leone's premier technology and innovation hub with over 130 acres in the Jombohun Community, Tinkonko Chiefdom, Bo District, the city is set to foster a thriving ecosystem for technological advancement. The city will feature a range of facilities, including a business processing and outsourcing center, state-of-the-art office spaces,

research labs, coworking spaces, educational institutions, industrial hubs, healthcare facilities, and residential areas.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, on behalf of F&lei Tech City, the Permanent Secretary of MoCTI defended the FY 2025 of the institution. For the said year, the City was allocated **NLe 500,000,000** pending Parliamentary approval in line with its deliverables.

VOTE: 211-01 SIERRA LEONE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Sierra Leone Immigration Department establishment can be traced to as far back as the 1940 and 1950, when foreigners were attracted into the country due to the discovery of precious minerals, especially diamonds, in the country. Then, the institution was under the Sierra Leone Police mandated to manage the immigration and emigration citizens and non-citizens and to also prevent smuggling of diamonds and gold. After the ten years civil war was declared over in 1992, the department was transferred to the Ministry of Internal Affairs with additional mandate that matched with contemporary immigration functions.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, for FY 2024, the Department submitted to MoF a budget of **NLe 21,924,600** but was allocated **NLe 8,939,900** and the same figure was approved by Parliament. In terms of actuals received, the Department, as at 30th September 2024, did not receive any allocation from Government.

As a revenue generation Department, its revenue target for FY 2024 was **NLe 29,555,000** and as at 30th September, it had collected **NLe 28, 323,000**, an amount very close to the target. This means that the Department is highly likely to exceed its FY 2024 revenue target by the end of the year.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the completed questionnaire revealed that Residence Permits revenues are collected by Securiport, National Revenue Authority and Netpage and paid into the Department's Treasury Single Account (TSA). Furthermore, with exception to the revenue generated on the sale of passport by Netpage, the

Department is authorized to retain 60% of revenue generated from Residence Permit. In addition, the Department also has a sharing ratio of 50%/50% with Securiport on the revenue generated from eVisa fees of which 50% for the Department is further shared according to the TSA ratio.

On expenditure, the Department, as at September, expended **NLe 5, 877,843** in quarters 1, 2 and 3 as per its deliverables.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, to meet its financial obligations in the process of dispensing its functions, the Department's budget submission to MoF for FY 2025 was **NLe 20,114,600** but was however allocated **NLe 4,939,900** which awaits the approval of Parliament.

On revenue generation for 2025 FY, the Department set a revenue collection target of **NLe 22, 8000,000**.

In view of the above and in consideration of the fact that the Department is utilizing a significant percentage of its own source revenue, the Committee considers its allocation for FY 2025 adequate and recommends its approval.

VOTE: 302-01 MINISTRY OF SPORTS

Mr. Chairman Hon. Members, the Ministry of Sports is mandated to design and develop appropriate policies and programmes that will ensure the promotion of sports in the country. Its vision is to have a perfect machinery to promote and develop Sports by providing leadership with care and commitment and to create an innovative and inclusive nation through sports. The Ministry's mission is to supervise and monitor the implementation of all sporting activities throughout the country. The overall achievements contribute to poverty reduction through economic development of all Sierra Leoneans relating to sports.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, for 2024 FY, the Ministry's original budget submitted was **NLe 10,209,000.60** but **NLe 5,525,000** was approved and allocated. As at 30th

September 2024, the Ministry received **NLe 3,094,000** (quarter 1-3) from GoSL Regular Budget and expended the said amount in line with its approved deliverables.

For FY 2025, the Ministry's original budget submission to MoF was **NLe 9,756,000** but an allocation of **NLe 5,799,800** was made to it that await the approval of Parliament. Expressing concern on the huge cut on the Ministry's budget submission, the Permanent Secretary revealed that the following would be adversely affected:

- a) Sports policies and the review of the current Act;
- b) Local and overseas travelling; and
- c) General administration

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, having critically looked at the Ministry's deliverables for FY 2025, the Committee deems the 2024 budget adequate and recommends its approval.

VOTE: 306-01 MINISTRY OF LANDS, HOUSING AND COUNTRY PLANNING

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning (MLHCP) is mandated to manage the country's land resources and promotes sustainable land use planning and provide affordable housing. The Ministry's goal is to create policies that contribute to the country's socio-economic development.

The Ministry made a budget submission of **NLe 8,223,580** for the 2024 FY to the MoF but **NLe 7,300,200** was allocated and of that amount, the Ministry had prepared vouchers to receive, as at 30th September, **NLe 1,666,200** covering quarter 1 and 2. While waiting the **NLe 1,666,200** to hit its account, the Ministry expended **NLe 373,262** from a role over allocation from 2023 FY.

As a revenue generation institution, the Ministry generated **NLe 12,302,235** below a projection of **NLe 46,387,500**. Responding to queries on its abysmal performance in revenue collection, the Permanent Secretary attributed his institution's poor performance to the following:

- a. Lack of mobility to facilitate the movement of staff to monitor compliance;
- b. In adequate man power; and
- c. Technological problems in some parts of the country where revenues are to be collected

Answering to questions relating to the utilization of the revenue generated, the PS disclosed that the revenue collected were directly paid to various commercial banks and then transferred to the central bank. This means that, he continued, the staff of the Ministry don't receive money from clients. Instead, they receive receipts of payments made at the commercial banks in favour of the institution and enter such records in the Ministry's cash book. The PS added that the Ministry had made several attempts through its budget presentation at MoF for the Ministry to retain 30% of revenue generated but that proposal was never approved.

For FY 2025, the Ministry's budget submitted to MoF was **NLe 9,609,000** but **NLe 7,300,200** was allocated pending approval from the Legislature.

Notwithstanding poor performance in revenue generation in 2024 FY, the Ministry set a revenue target of **NLe 120,000,000** for FY 2025 and the Vote Controller assured the Committee of the Ministry's commitment to scale up its revenue generation drive in 2025 so that it can meet its set target.

The Committee considered the allocation made to the Ministry for FY 2025 fairly adequate and therefore recommends its approval.

VOTE: 312-01 TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) of Sierra Leone was established by an Act of Parliament in 2011 and by this Act, it is charged with the responsibility to manage the affairs of teachers with the view to improve their professional status, economic wellbeing among others.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Commission 2024 FY budget submission to MoF was **NLe 6,460,700** and same was approved and allocated. With respect to actual allocation received, the Commission received, as at 30th September 2024 thus:

GoSL Regular Budget **NLe 1,453,700** (3rd quarter)

Donations **NLe 57,923,565** (1st -3rd quarters)

In total, the Commission received **NLe 59,377,265**

Addressing the Committee on various concerns relating to huge expenditures undertaken by the TSC, the Executive Secretary disclosed that the donor funding was expended by the donors for and on behalf of the Commission on many activities including but not limited to:

- ✓ Training on Code of Conduct and Positive Discipline for Teachers
- ✓ Conduct of R&L Licensure Examination;
- ✓ Foundational Learning (Literacy Package) for Primary 1;
- ✓ Training of Teachers on Tech and Coach Techniques;
- ✓ Micro Credential on Teachers Professional Development; and Staff Training on Performance Management.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Committee observed that for FY 2024, the Commission, up to 30th September, had expended **NLe 62,694,946** exceeding by a margin of **NLe 3,317,681**.

Justifying this over expenditure, the Executive Secretary revealed, with supporting documents (bank statements), that the excess amount expended is a brought forward from FY 2024 for certain projects that were not fully implemented in 2023.

For FY 2025, TSC's budget submission to MoF was **NLe 7,461,200**. However, it was allocated **NLe 4,960,700** that is subject to the approval of Parliament. Voicing out the

effects of the cut to the institution's budget submitted, the Executive Secretary said that the slash of **NLe 2,500,500** will affect:

- ❖ Support to the sixteen (16) districts offices with logistics to undertake routine monitoring of teachers in schools;
- ❖ Vetting of teachers' certificates with the view to eliminate fake certificates and unqualified teachers in the system; and
- ❖ Teacher training on portfolio development

Bearing in mind the crucial role of teachers in the education sector and notwithstanding enormous financial intervention of donor partners, the Committee views the allocation to TSC inadequate and recommends for supplementary budget allocation.

VOTE: 314-00 NATIONAL HIV & AIDS COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the National HIV and AIDS Commission was established in 1994 charged with the responsibility of providing Policy and Strategic Framework for mobilizing and coordinating resources for preventing the transmission of HIV/AIDS and provision of treatment, care and support to HIV/AIDS positive in Sierra Leone. Additionally, the Commission is also responsible to coordinate the National Response towards making HIV/AIDS a non-Public Health in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, for **2024 FY**, the Commission submitted an original budget of **NLe, 3,229,000** to the Ministry of Finance but was however allocated **NLe 2,829,100**, of which **NLe 1,274,950** was received from GoSL Regular Budget in the 3rd quarters. However, the Commission also received funding of **NLe 965,850** from the German Development Bank. This donor fund, according to the Vote Controller, was meant for the implementation of HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme & Strengthening of Women HAPP IV. In total, therefore, the Commission, as at 30th September, received **NLe 2,240,800**.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, with regards expenditure in FY **2024**, the Commission expended as at 30th September the sum of **NLe, 3,734,220**. This figure indicates an excess expenditure of **NLe 1,493.420** and according to the Vote Controller, it was a brought forward of donor funds from 2023 FY.

For **2025 FY**, the Commission submitted to the Ministry of Finance a budget of **NLe, 3,481,930** but was allocated the sum of **NLe, 2,829,100** pending Parliamentary approval.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the amount allocated by MoF to the Commission indicates that the Commission incurred a deduction of **NLe 652,830** from its approved budget. This, according to the Vote Controller, will affect the procurement of motor bikes for field staff in the various districts.

The Committee considers the allocation of NLe 2,829,100 to the Commission as fairly adequate. However, the Committee recommends that the Commission is considered for a supplementary budget within the course of the year.

VOTE: 322-01 NATIONAL LANDS COMMISSION OF SIERRA LEONE

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the National Lands Commission (NLC) was established by the National Land Commission Act 2022 as a semi-autonomous State owned institution to manage, appropriate and supervise the services of physical planning, land development land title registration, among others. Its core functions include the following:

- * Establish and maintain a system of registration of title to land nationwide;
- * Establish grievance redress mechanism such as land adjudication and tribunal;
- * Setting standards for accreditation for surveyors;
- * Monitoring land use and planning in Sierra Leone;

* To manage, appropriate and supervise the services of physical planning;

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, for **2024 FY**, the Commission submitted an original budget of **NLe 4,515,739** to the Ministry of Finance. However, the Commission was allocated **NLe 4,526,500**. Out of this allocation, the Commission had received, as at September 30th, **NLe 2,500,000** in quarter 2 of FY 2024.

With respect to the Commission's expenditure for the year under review, it expenditure stands at **NLe 1,887, 650** guided by its deliverables and the unexpended amount of **NLe 612,350** was reported in the closing balance as at 30th September 2024.

On revenue generation, the Commission disclosed that it is currently not a revenue generating MDA. However, the Commission informed the Committee that after the repeal of the Surveys and Conveyancing Acts, among other, the Commission will starts to generate revenue in FY 2025 from the following sources:

- ❖ Land registration;
- ❖ Building Permit;
- ❖ Land title registration;
- ❖ Land tax;
- ❖ Survey and mapping;
- ❖ M& E; and
- ❖ Land dispute resolution fees

Mr. Chairman Hon. Members, for **2025 FY**, the Commission submitted the sum of **NLe 25,306,580** to the Ministry of Finance but **NLe 4,526,500** was approved and allocated pending approval from Parliament. Commenting on the huge cut from its original budget submitted and its effect, the Commission disclosed that it would affect the following:

- ❖ The operation of the newly established regional offices in Bo, Kenema, Makeni, Port Loko and Bonthe;
- ❖ Land registration;
- ❖ Land title registration;

- ❖ Survey and mapping;

Given the importance of the Commission in addressing the problems surrounding land acquisition and disposal in the country, the Committee recommends the approval of the Commission's allocation for FY 2025.

VOTE: 403-05 NATIONAL MINERALS AGENCY

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the National Minerals Agency (NMA) is an Agency of the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources that was created in 2012 following the enactment of the National Minerals Agency Act 2012. Pursuant to Section 11 (1) of the Act, the Agency is charged with the responsibility to promote the development of the entire minerals sector, taking into consideration its vision of ensuring that Sierra Leoneans benefit the most from the country's rich minerals deposit.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, to meet its financial obligations for FY 2024, the Agency's budget submitted to MoF was **NLe 4,215,900** and the same amount was in principle allocated and approved by Parliament.

Out of a revenue projection of **NLe 44,395,000** for FY 2024, the Agency was able to generate **NLe 66,627** as at 30th September 2024 from various sources like: gold and diamond export fee; assessment fee; application fee; blasting fee; penalty for non-compliance, among others. The figures indicate that the Agency exceeded its target by **NLe 22,231,000**. The Agency informed the Committee that it was to have even done better than this but was challenged by:

- The non-harmonization of tariff in the sub region for gold;
- Limited collaboration from other MDAs in the enforcement of mining laws; and
- Smuggling and fraudulent transactions

Of the revenue generated, with exception to mining license and royalties which are directly deposited to the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF), the Agency retained 70% to meet its financial obligations for FY 2024.

For the year under review, the Agency prudently expended **NLe 62,048,000** as at 30th September 2024 in line with its deliverables.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, in line with its budget submission, the Agency was allocated **NLe 4,215,900** for FY 2025 in line with its deliverables, pending approval from Parliament. With regards to revenue generation, the Agency set an ambitious revenue target of **NLe 79,297,000** and the Agency made a commitment to the Committee that the projection will not only be achieved but it will as well exceed.

The Committee recommends the approval of the Agency's allocation on the ground that it is adequate to meet its FY 2025 financial obligations.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Committee hereby recommends that the Report of the Appropriation Sub-Committee No.12 be adopted by this Honourable House and that the Budget Heads including Sub-Heads of MDAs listed below, except **the Directorate of Science, Technology and Initiative (DSTI) and Office of the Provincial Secretary, Northern Province, Makeni**, form part of the schedule in respect of budgetary provisions for the **Financial Year 2025**.

Table 3: MDAs Account Heads and their Allocations for 2025 FY:

| Vote | Div. | Vote Description | Amount (NLe) |
|------|------|--|------------------|
| 107 | 01 | Falaba District Council | 6,459,556 |
| 107 | 4 | Provincial Secretary's Northern Province, Makeni (withheld) | 4,573,900 |
| 107 | 5 | Provincial Secretary's North West Province, Port Loko | 4,008,100 |
| 110 | 8 | Law Reform Commission | 2,299,700 |
| 110 | 10 | Local Government Service Commission | 2,473,800 |
| 135 | 1 | Ministry of Communication, Technology and Innovation | 4,500,000 |
| 135 | 2 | Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation (withheld) | 3,960,700 |

| | | | |
|-------|---|--|-------------------|
| 135 | 3 | Felei Tech City (New Agency) | 500,000 |
| 211 | 1 | Immigration Department | 4,939,900 |
| 302 | 1 | Ministry of Sport | 5,799,800 |
| 306 | 1 | Ministry of Lands and Country Planning | 7,300,200 |
| 312 | 1 | Teaching Service Commission | 4,960,700 |
| 314 | 1 | National HIV and AIDS Commission | 2,829,100 |
| 322 | 1 | National Land Commission of Sierra Leone | 4,526,500 |
| 403 | 2 | National Minerals Agency (NMA) | 4,215,900 |
| Total | | | 63,247,856 |

Source: Secretariat

Signed:.....

Hon. Veronica Kadie Sesay

Chairman, Appropriation Sub-Committee No. 12

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, we had similar situation in our Committee and our finding was that there is too much political interference in the administration of MDAs, especially the Councils. As the name implies, the Chief Administrators [CAs] are the administrative heads of these institutions, and therefore regarded as Votes Controllers. In as much as the Mayors and Chairmen are above the C.As in the structural hierarchy, they must not interfere with the functions of the C.As visa vie. Otherwise, conflict will ensue, and that will definitely cripple the development aspirations of the Councils in diverse ways.

Also, the Appropriation exercise is a Constitutional mandate that must be adhered to by the MDAs. Unfortunately, the Committee observes that the Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovative [DSTI] and the Office of the Provincial Secretary, Northern Province, Makeni, deliberately did not comply with the law. As representatives of the

people who are beneficiaries of the work of these MDAs, the Committee through the lead Clerk of the Appropriation exercise made several attempts to engage heads of these institutions on the importance of the exercise and the Consequences of failing to adhere.

Therefor Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Committee hereby recommends that the Report of the Appropriations Sub-Committee **No.12** be adopted by the Honourable House, and that the Budget Heads, including the Sub-Heads of FY 2025 of MDAs listed below, except the Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovative [DSTI] and the Office of the Provincial Secretary, Northern Province, Makeni form part of the schedule. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do we have any comment from Members?

HON. SAA EMERSON LAMINA: Mr Chairman, I have been a very meticulous observer over the repetitive issues of Local Councils. I very well understand that the Local Council comprises of two wings; Political and Administrative. But what I have noticed from the Reports of all Local Councils involved, I am not too sure whether in recent times the Local Councils are using the Standing Orders. That is why we have been hearing a lot of conflicts. Today, if you ask the C.As, Chairmen or Mayors of the Councils, I am not too sure they are using the Standing Orders which would have eased the tension or conflict in the Councils.

And Mr Chairman, this is also for the edification of those in the Local Councils Committee; let us critically observe the usage of the Human Resources Guidelines. It is stated in Part Five [5] that a Staff should stay in each Locality for at least three years before he or she can be transferred.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, are you commenting on the..?

HON. SAA EMERSON LAMINA: Yes, I am commenting on a very serious point. Mr Chairman, two things are absent here.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, no, hold on, hold on, Honourable Member. Are you commenting on Group 12 or the previous one?

HON. SAA EMERSON LAMINA: Group 12 and the previous one.

THE SPEAKER: No, no, you cannot go back to the previous one; that is the resolution of this House.

HON. SAA EMERSON LAMINA: Okay, Group 12, because I heard very clearly when the Chairperson made mention of conflicts in Local Councils, and I just wanted to generalize it. However, my comment is more for the benefit of Group 12, Mr Chairman. So it is important for those in Local Councils, and Group 12 specifically to be aware of two things; the correct usage of the Human Resources Guidelines and the correct usage of the Standing Orders which are so conspicuously absent in many Local Councils. I thank you very much, Mr Chairman for this opportunity.

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: Mr Chairman, in line with Group 12 for the DSTI, that has been the primary norm for them; each time you ask them to come to Parliament they will refuse to come. So I can attest to the fact that, that has been their attitude towards Parliament, thank you, Mr Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. So now we are withholding their Budget, and we would monitor the Ministry of Finance and if we discover that they disburse any funds to the DSTI and the Provincial Secretary's Office, we would accordingly ask the Ministry to refund same into the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Madam Minister, go ahead.

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

Table 3: MDAs Account Heads and their Allocations for 2025 FY:

| Vote | Div. | Vote Description | Amount (NLe) |
|-------|------|---|-------------------|
| 107 | 01 | Falaba District Council | 6,459,556 |
| 107 | 4 | Provincial Secretary's Northern Province, Makeni (withheld) | 4,573,900 |
| 107 | 5 | Provincial Secretary's North West Province, Port Loko | 4,008,100 |
| 110 | 8 | Law Reform Commission | 2,299,700 |
| 110 | 10 | Local Government Service Commission | 2,473,800 |
| 135 | 1 | Ministry of Communication, Technology and Innovation | 4,500,000 |
| | | Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation | |
| 135 | 2 | (withheld) | 3,960,700 |
| 135 | 3 | Felei Tech City (New Agency) | 500,000 |
| 211 | 1 | Immigration Department | 4,939,900 |
| 302 | 1 | Ministry of Sport | 5,799,800 |
| 306 | 1 | Ministry of Lands and Country Planning | 7,300,200 |
| 312 | 1 | Teaching Service Commission | 4,960,700 |
| 314 | 1 | National HIV and AIDS Commission | 2,829,100 |
| 322 | 1 | National Land Commission of Sierra Leone | 4,526,500 |
| 403 | 2 | National Minerals Agency (NMA) | 4,215,900 |
| Total | | | 63,247,856 |

[QUESTION PROPOSED, PUT AND AGREED TO]

[The following votes as pronounce by the Minister as amended form part of the schedule].

GROUP EIGHT

VOTES

13301,13302,13304,20801,21301,40701,42201,42501,42701,41901,30801,70106 and 70109 to stand part of the schedule.

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

**APPROPRIATION SCHEDULE
Fiscal Year 2025 budget
(Jan. – Dec.)**

| NO | VOTE | DIVISION | VOTE DESCRIPTION | TOTAL SUM VOTED |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|---|------------------------|
| 1 | 133 | 01 | Ministry of Information and Civic Education | 6,436,000 |
| 2 | 133 | 02 | Outreach Coordination Unit | 1,543,200 |
| 3 | 133 | 04 | Sierra Leone News Agency | 800,000 |
| 4 | 208 | 01 | National Fire Force | 12,808,300 |
| 5 | 213 | 01 | National Disaster Management Agency | 11,423,500 |
| 6 | 407 | 01 | Ministry of Labour and Social Security | 15,026,300 |
| 7 | 422 | 01 | Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency | 5,963,300 |
| 8 | 425 | 01 | Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority | 107,564,000 |
| 9 | 427 | 01 | National Fertilizer Regulatory Agency | 3,366,800.00 |
| 10 | 419 | 01 | Sierra Leone Local Content Agency | 3,621,200.00 |
| 11 | 308 | 01 | National Commission for Social Action | 8,640,800.00 |
| 12 | 701 | 06 | Kono District Council | 12,499,901.00 |
| 13 | 701 | 09 | Kambia District Council | 14,653,438.00 |

THE CHAIRMAN: Before I put the Question, I would ask the following Honourable Members to go to their seats:

1. The Honourable Mohamed
2. The Honourable Alice Konia Sandi
3. The Honourable Rebecca Yei Kamara
4. The Honourable Hawa Siaffa
5. The Honourable Sia Abiyama Tommy and
6. The Honourable Edward George

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, I would have loved to finish all the Reports today but because of unavoidable absence of the Leaders of the House [I see the Leader of the Opposition just worked in], but because of the absence of most of the Front Bench, I think we would take the next Reports tomorrow and we pass the Budget.

HON. DANIEL .B. KOROMA: Mr Chairman, I hope you only think.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am still thinking.

HON. DANIEL .B. KOROMA: Fine, before you pass the ruling. I wonder if we are going to sit on Saturday. For me, I am willing, but I wonder because we have frowned against that earlier. And then, tomorrow's Order Paper is almost impossible because I have seen the Order Paper. So if we are not finishing this one today, tomorrow's Agenda is even impossible. So any further carry forward will not be good.

THE CHAIRMAN: So what I would do, I would take the two Reports and suspend the passage of the Budget to tomorrow; that will be less than 5minutes.

HON. DANIEL .B. KOROMA: But let us finish with the Reports today.

THE CHAIRMAN: I take your submission; we would finish the Reports today. So Honourable Members, we are in an agreement that we take the two Reports and tomorrow we pass the Budget, right? Very well! Chairman Group Eight [8], go on.

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the Report of Appropriation Sub-Committee of supplies compiled by Group Eight [8].

1. PROCEDURE

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, prior to the exercise of scrutinizing MDAs under the purview of Sub-Appropriation Committee, carefully designed questionnaires aimed at capturing relevant data or information on Q4 2023, and the first three quarters of, 2024 budgetary allocations and activities were delivered to each of the MDAs listed above. And consistent with the Provisions in **Standing Orders 66 (1)**, Vote Controllers were summoned before the Committee and questioned on oath as provided for in Section 93, Subsection 6 (a) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone (Act No 6 of 1991). This was to ensure accurate, reliable and authentic information are obtained from MDAs. The Committee conducted open hearings as stipulated in **Standing Orders 73 (20)** with caution to media houses on the consequences for premature publication as prescribed in **Standing Orders 75 (1-3)**

2. OBJECTIVES

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, the Appropriation Sub-Committee 8 probed the Ministries, Departments and Agencies with the aim of achieving the following Objectives:

- ❖ To critically examine financial records to ascertain adherence to the prescribed Financial Management Regulations in the use of resources allocated to them in the 2024 Fiscal Year
- ❖ To ensure that public funds are spent appropriately and efficiently by Vote Controllers through which government is accountable for its expenditure decisions
- ❖ To identify bottle necks (challenges) in implementation of budgetary activities and together proffer recommendations to ensure value for money in the delivery of services to the citizenry

3. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Composition of the Sub-Appropriation Committee Group 8 is as follows:

1. Hon. Salia-Konneh QUINTIN – **CHAIRMAN**
2. Hon. Kekura Vandy – **DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**
3. Hon. Sarty Banya
4. Hon. Catherine Zainab Tarawallie
5. Hon. Beatrice Maaya Kangbai
6. Hon. Amie Nyava Moriba
7. Hon. Abu Bakarr Fofanah
8. Hon. John Sarty Kargbo
9. Hon. Adama Conteh
10. Hon. P.C Prince Lansana Bio
11. Hon. Amara Momoh Kargbo
12. Hon. Tamba Kellie

❖ **SUPPORT STAFF**

1. Alie Kamara – **Lead Clerk**
2. Christiana Kanneh – **Assistance Clerk**
3. Sahr Gborie – **PBO**

6. GENERAL FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, after thorough scrutiny of all the MDAs under its purview, the Committee arrived at the following general observations and recommendations:

- ❖ That most of the MDAs alleged that did not receive their questionnaire, time table and venue schedule on time and besides, the time allocated to them to appropriately respond to the questionnaire was limited. In like manner, the

Committee observed that most MDAs completed questionnaires were received at the time of the hearings which made it practically impossible for Members to digest them and identify lacunas, successes and challenges of MDAs.

Therefore, the Committee recommends that MDAs are given questionnaires through the various standing committees prior to commencement to the sub appropriation session, instead of sending them to the ministries directly. The Parliamentary Budget Office should receive answered questionnaires at least a week earlier before the hearings commenced to enhance proper analysis and scrutiny

- ❖ The committee also observed that there was lot of over spending over actual budget. Some other MDAs spent huge amount of money on irrelevant activities like top and some others which limited them achieving their performance indicators.

It is therefore recommended that the standing committees do the needful in there oversight role and the public account committee get further engagement with them.

- ❖ It was also observed that most of the MDAs particularly the council most of the personal the e.g. Chief administration and team where newly transferred to the council prior to the commencement of the sub-appropriation this year. The chief administration and team couldn't quit respond to questions asked that predate their arrival to those council

It is therefore recommended that subsequently posting should be done at the beginning of every year to limit information gap.

- ❖ **Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members**, it was also observed that donations received by MDAs is not reported to Parliament as required under **Section 118 (7) of the 1991 Constitution [Act No.6]. The**

Committee recommends that the appropriate Committees in Parliament look into this issue with utmost seriousness with the view to ensuring that the said constitutional provision is strictly adhered to.

- ❖ The Committee observed that late release of MDAs allocations affected service delivery. **The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance releases MDAs allocations on time in order to enable them carry out their mandates effectively and efficiently.**
- ❖ The Committee further observed that the delay in the release of allocations resulted in unfinished activities and projects and the unfinished projects had to be rolled over. These roll over expenditures were not properly defended by Vote Controllers and that could lead to miss-direction of public funds.

Therefore, the Committee recommends that MDAs prioritize their annual activities in order to meet key performance indicators.

- ❖ The committee observed that the Outreach Coordination Unit and the Sierra Leone News Agency both of which have been subsidiary units under the Ministry of Information, have now be allocated to Votes in the 2025FY. This is a testament of their hard work and commitment to duty.

The Committee therefore recommended that, Ministry of Finance, allocates Votes to subsidiary Units that have demonstrated strong sense of responsibility and commitment to serving this nation.

- ❖ The Committee observed that there were huge variances between amount allocated to MDAs and actual amount disbursed. The Committee notes with grave concern that, from the documents reviewed, most MDAs

especially Local Councils did not receive up to 30% of their allocated budget.

The Committee recommends that, the Ministry of Finance cuts its coat, according to its size. That means, the Ministry should allocate amounts to MDAs that it can afford, because, it makes no sense to allocate 5 million to an agency and disburse only 1 million after three quarters.

SPECIFIC FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

[VOTE 133 01]: MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CIVIC EDUCATION

The Ministry of Information and Civic Education does not generate revenue directly, but however plays a very significant role in helping its MDAs to generate revenue for the Government of Sierra Leone. Some of the supervising MDAs under the Ministry of Information are the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Cooperation (SLBC), Sierra Leone News Agency (SLENA), National Film and Sensor Shop Board, Independent Media Commission (IMC), Daily Mail Newspaper, and Government Printing Department 9GPD). These institutions generate revenue from various revenue streams

In 2024 FY, the Ministry submitted a budget of **NLe 24,078,000.06**, but **NLe 5,036.95** was allocated. It was however observed that **NLe 2,880,000.00** was received from the Ministry of Finance. This was expended on key deliverables, such as Increase public awareness and knowledge on Government activities, programmes and policies on the Big 5 agenda by 2020, bridge the communication gap between citizens and the Government and enhance media policies and relations; promote civic engagement and support democratic and participatory governance; promote civic engagement and support democratic and participatory governance; enhance SLAJ subvention and Government's Counterpart Funding for the National fund for Public

interest Media in Sierra Leone (NaFPIM) and effective research, planning, monitoring and evaluation of MoICE's public information

For 2025 FY, the Ministry submitted a budget of **NLe 64,819.35**, but allocated a According to the Vote Controller, the allocation would be utilised on the following deliverables:

- ❖ To facilitate, influence, and support effective research, planning, monitoring and evaluation of government policies and programmes aimed at improving service delivery outcomes and impact on society;
- ❖ Promote civic engagement and support democratic and participatory governance;
- ❖ Promote a national framework on Records and Achieves management;
- ❖ Enhancing information systems and media for a heightened public interest media, media coordination, improved information flow, providing oversight to related government institutions; and
- ❖ strengthening and developing the policy Landscape by increase Public Awareness and knowledge on Government activities, programmes and policies on the Big 5 Agenda by 2028

Furthermore, the Ministry received the following donations from both the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank and the Chinese Embassy. All items received are listed below:

- ❖ three hundred thousand Leones
- ❖ six computers bought;
- ❖ 45 liters fuel weekly;
- ❖ six vehicles;
- ❖ fifteen computers purchased for the ministry

It was noted that the decrease in 2025 budget would affect the following areas in the implementation process:

- ❖ it would be extremely difficult to Strengthen and develop the Policy Landscape by increase in Public Awareness and knowledge on Government activities, programmes and policies on the Big 5 Agenda by 2028;
- ❖ enhancing Information System and media for a heightened Public interest media, media coordination, improved information flow, providing oversight to related government institutions will be affected.
- ❖ facilitate, influence, and support effective research, planning, monitoring and evaluation of government policies and programmes aimed at improving service delivery outcomes and impact on society will be severely hampered;
- ❖ Promotion of civic engagement and support to democratic and participatory governance;
- ❖ The Ministry's desire to promote a national framework on Records and Achieves Management will also be affected; and
- ❖ Promoting civic engagement and support democratic and participatory governance
- ❖ Providing effective oversight to:
 - ✓ Independent Media Commission (IMC) 12 ;
 - ✓ Right to Access Information Commission (RAIC) ;
 - ✓ Sierra Leone News Agency (SLENA) - Government Printing Department (GPD);
 - ✓ Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) ;
 - ✓ Sierra Leone Postal Services (SALPOST);
 - ✓ National Council for Civic Education (NACCED) ;
 - ✓ National Commission for Democracy (NCD)

The Committee noted from its discussions with Management that Ministry encountered series of challenges, including budget constraints, lack of working tools and equipment, inadequate office spaces for staff and inadequate trained and qualified staff.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee recommends that the submitted budget for the Ministry of Information and Civic Education be considered for approval

[VOTE 208 01]: NATIONAL FIRE FORCE

The primary role of Fire Force is to defend the nation against unwanted fires, some of which may lead to disastrous consequences of immense proportions, exists as a vital component of the nation's security architecture.

The National Fire Force has the mission to enhance an effective management and protection of fire disaster against human resources and property and hence reduce poverty and contribute to economic growth, through efficient firefighting, search and rescue and disaster preparedness mechanism in the country; the Institution aims at Preventing, protecting and responding to fires and other natural disasters within our beloved Sierra Leone

In 2024 FY, the Force submitted an original budget of **NLe 12,808,300**, but was however allocated **NLe 21,607,935**. This allocation was expended on general administration and support services, provision of fire services, operations and maintenance of fire engines and regional district fire stations.

The Committee noted certain challenges that affected the Force, including inadequate budgetary provision, inaccessibility of funds for emergency activities, limited fire stations, limited access roads for the fire engines, vehicular and human traffic resulting in severe congestions within the city and this impedes the smooth running of the fire

engines, lack of hydrants in many parts of the city, coupled with the damaging of existing hydrants by road workers or other agencies, etc. and limited number of operational fire engines and equipment for effective firefighting.

For 2025 FY, the Force submitted a budget of **NLe 15, 759,100** to the Ministry of Finance, but was allocated **NLe 12,808,300**. **This allocation was said to be expended on** the general administration and support services, improve delivery of fire services, operations and maintenance of fire engines and regional district fire stations.

The Committee concluded that the very low budget ceiling which the National Fire Force was forced to work with is quite insignificant to run such department. If not improved, it would drastically reduce firefighting, search and rescue capabilities nationwide as a result of the following:

- ❖ limitation of fuel usage;
- ❖ expansion of the service; and
- ❖ Provision of essential equipment and chemicals for the smooth running of the department and the safety of the nation.

With that being observed, the Committee recommends that the Force 2025 allocation be approved, while considering the provision of additional funds to address the following:

- ❖ ***construction of Fire Stations in other parts of the city and district headquarter towns for swift response to emergence situations;***
- ❖ ***Provision of fire engines and equipment with well-developed communication systems;***
- ❖ ***recruitment and training of fire fighters to man the new fire stations;***
- ❖ ***provision of more rescue equipment, so that the Force can effectively render search and rescue activities;***

- ❖ ***Advocate for the provision of more hydrants to Freetown and provincial headquarter towns; and provision fire ambulances for search and rescue activities.***

[VOTE 419-01: SIERRA LEONE LOCAL CONTENT AGENCY

The Sierra Leone Local Content Agency is a specialized semi-autonomous agency of the government of Sierra Leone charged with the responsibility to implement the Local Content Agency Act 2016. The Agency and government's key priority and strategic focus is skills development and strengthening the capacity of local enterprise and its citizens for the enhancement of livelihood as formulated by the government of Sierra Leone's medium-term National development plan of 2019 – 2023. The Agency's thematic areas of operation include assess Local Content Plans, award certificate of authorization, issue local content certification, benchmark companies in scorecard system, investigate complaints, local supplier support and trade facilitation.

The Ministry of Finance, for the 2024 FY, allocated **3,621,200.00** out of an original budget submission of **NLe 4,980,580.00**. The Agency received donations/grants of **NLe 321,971.33** and other revenue to the tune of **NLe 4,600**. This was spent on administration cost, communication and outreach, research, monitoring and evaluation, Supplier and market development programme and skills development programme.

The Committee was however informed that the Agency encountered the following challenges during the implementation phase of the 2024 budget:

- ❖ Difficulty in getting companies and donors to contribute to the fund;
- ❖ lack of capacity development to understand the Agency's technicalities of local content;
- ❖ untimely disbursement of funds to LCA from both the MoF and BSL;
- ❖ lack of monitoring tools;

- ❖ Lack of skilled, trained, and qualified indigenes to compete with foreign nationals.
- ❖ Stakeholder partnerships and collaboration.

For 2025 FY, the Ministry of Finance gave a budget ceiling of **NLe 4,455,500.00**, but the Agency submitted a budget of **NLe 7,284,061.00** and an actual allocation of NLe **3,621,200.00**

The Committee observed that the decrease would affect the smooth implementation of the following key deliverables:

- ❖ Research, Monitoring and Evaluation;
- ❖ Skilled development;
- ❖ Suppliers market development programme
- ❖ Communications and outreach program, and
- ❖ Administrative and support services.

In that regard, the Committee recommends the following:

- ❖ ***The Agency's allocation to the tune of NLe 3,621,200.00 be approved, while considering supplementary budgetary provision to enable it surmount those challenges;***
- ❖ ***The Act is reviewed to clearly define guidelines;***
- ❖ ***Staff are enrolled in courses relating to the Local Content and also provide adequate trainings for all staff;***
- ❖ ***BSL should improve on the timely release of funds, otherwise MoF takes up the payment for the continuous use of the reporting portal;***

[VOTE 308 01]: NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL ACTION

The Statutory Mandate of the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) in Sierra Leone was established under the NaCSA Act of 2019. According to the Act, NaCSA is tasked with the responsibility of promoting sustainable development and reducing poverty in Sierra Leone, with a focus on improving the welfare of disadvantaged and marginalized communities.

For 2024 FY, NaCSA submitted an original budget of **NLe 9,000,000.00**, but was however allocated the sum of **NLe 8640,000.00** by the Ministry of Finance. This allocation was said to have been expended on key deliverables, including administrative cost, electricity, fuel and vehicle maintenance, generator maintenance, allowance and rentals.

For 2025 FY, the Commission submitted a budget of **NLe 12,000,000.00**, but was however allocated the sum of **NLe 8,640,800.00**, registering a decrease of 28% of the original budget submission. According to the Vote Controller, the decrease would undermine the key priority areas as mentioned below:

- ❖ delay payment of rent may lead to eviction or litigation;
- ❖ frequent power outages will hinder operations and increasing reliance on costly alternatives such as fuel for generators;
- ❖ may lead to rationing of supplies, reducing efficiency and causing delays in administrative tasks and even responding to the needs of the district offices;
- ❖ may lead to deferred maintenance, resulting in expensive repair;

A cross examination of the Commission's completed questionnaire disclosed that late disbursement of funds, inadequate funding, capacity gap, poor salary structure, and lack of centralised and accessible data management system makes it difficult for the Commission to track beneficiaries, assess needs, and report on progress effectively.

With being observed, the Committee recommends that:

- ❖ *the Commission’s allocation to the tune of NLe 8,640,800.00, but the parliamentary Committee on Finance should investigate the Commission’s projects with a view to determining their relevance or viability to the communities;*
- ❖ *ensuring regular staff training and professional certification in projects management, finance, and monitoring;*
- ❖ *The Commission should implement a comprehensive digital data management system that can centralise information and make-reporting more efficient; and*
- ❖ *NaCSA should work closely with the Ministry of Finance to ensure timely and accurate financial forecasting and monitoring of fund releases.*

VOTE [701 – 06] KONO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Kono District Council came into existence by the Local Council Act of 2002 to facilitate government program and projects and local or rural community level. The Mission and Vision of this Council is to “ensure economic growth and development through efficient utilization of natural resources and improved service delivery in communities within the district; and to promote democratic principles through community participation and honest information sharing.”

For 2024 FY, Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of **NLe 5,167,763.00**, out of and original budget submission of **NLe 8,199,253.20**. This allocation was expended on Admin building electrical maintenance, Admin building minor repairs, solar installation, tools for canal clearing and tools for canal clearing-transportation.

For 2025 FY, the Ministry of Finance gave a budget ceiling of **NLe 9,951,351.00**, but was allocated a budget of **NLe 20,077,008**. This allocation was to be expended on

expended on admin building electrical maintenance, Admin building minor repairs, solar installation, tools for canal clearing and tools for canal clearing-transportation.

Kono District Council is one of the revenue generating Councils in Sierra Leone. In 2024 FY, Council collected **NLe 1,440,256.00** out of revenue target of **NLe 4,000,000** From various revenue sources, such as local tax, property tax, business registration, business licenses, mining royalties, CBO/FBO registration, exit tax, marriage certificates, hall hire, sales of tender documents, telecommunication and billboards.

The Committee observed a number of challenges in the course of collecting revenue in 2024 FY, including reluctance of the people to pay tax, non-cooperation of senior district officers in revenue collection, poor road network, interference in revenue mobilisation by Chiefdom Authorities, lack of mobility, etc.

For 2025 FY, Council's revenue projection is **NLe 5,015,447.00**. The Committee however doubted Council's ability to achieve such a huge target.

The Committee considered Council's 2025 allocation to the tune of NLe 20,077,008 as adequate and therefore recommends for its approval. The Committee further advised Management to include, as part of their revenue sources, plantation registration, cattle wrench registration, quarry registration, public sensitisation on the need to pay tax, addressing the conflict between Council and Chiefdom Councils.

VOTE: 213-01: NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY [NDMA]

The National Disaster Management Agency [NDMA] was established through an Act of Parliament in 2020, with the mandate to effectively manage disasters and similar emergencies throughout the nation. The Agency aims to enhance the resilience of communities in disaster mitigation, response, and recovery. The Act empowers the Office of National Security [ONS] to serve as the Primary Coordinator for the management of Disasters [natural or man-made]. The Agency enjoys enormous

supports from the highest levels of government and His Excellency and his Vice President.

For 2024 FY, the Agency submitted a budget of **NLe 25,825,946.00**, but was nonetheless allocated **NLe 5,569,000.00**. It was also noted that the Agency received donations/grant/loan to the tune of **NLe 5,495,715.00** from UNDP, World Bank and IDMC. The regular Government budget was expended on administrative cost, disaster risk management and operations, national emergency relief support, etc.

In the process of implementing the 2024 deliverables, the Committee uncovered that the Agency faced critical challenges, such as limited resources, mobility constrain, etc.

For 2025 FY, the Agency submitted a budget of **NLe 25,923,500.00**. However, the Ministry of Finance allocated the sum of **NLe 11,423,500.00**, indicating a decrease of **55.9%** from the original budget. According to the Vote Controller, the decrease would undermine the achievement of planned activities, including disaster mitigation, disaster response, public education, and community engagement, partners coordination, and administrative and operations.

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, following a thorough scrutiny of the Agency's budget, the Committee considers the budget adequate and recommends its approval.

VOTE [133-04] SIERRA LEONE NEWS AGENCY- MOICE

Founded in 1977 under cabinet conclusion CP43 [77]15, the Sierra Leone News Agency [SLENA] was established to provide accurate information using modern communication methods. Guided by the Kampala Declaration, SLENA aimed to foster democratic media growth across Africa. The agency's evolving journey includes a UNESCO-backed pilot project in 1987 and until May 25th, 1997, produced daily bulletins and maintained bureaus in provincial centers, enhancing its coverage. From February 21st, 2000, it

published thrice-weekly a tabloid "Sierra News" until 2005, faced challenges and a hiatus until July 8th, 2020.

SLENA's reemergence in 2020 necessitated strategic rejuvenation to adapt to evolving media landscapes while maintaining its commitment to disseminating credible information globally. The rebooted Sierra Leone News Agency [SLENA] vision is to be the leading source of accurate, impartial, and trustworthy news and information for Sierra Leonean and global audiences. Through its exceptional content, innovative programming, and fact-based reporting, SLENA aims to combat misinformation and propaganda, while promoting freedom of expression and access to credible information.

The Agency has significantly expanded its operations, now boasting of 34 new staff members, bringing the workforce to approximately 40 personnel. With this expanded capacity, the Agency is fully operational and requires a comprehensive and well-structured budget to meet its growing demands.

Currently, SLENA utilises platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp to distribute news and information, and it publishes the Sierra News Newspaper twice a week. However, a robust budget allocation is essential to enhance its effectiveness and efficiency. This will enable it to implement more sophisticated and professional distribution channels, including a fully functional website, digital media initiatives, and the production of regular news bulletins.

For 2024 FY, the Agency did not submit any budget, but the Ministry of Finance however allocated the sum of **NLe 180,000**. This allocation was utilised on administrative and operating expenses.

The Committee noted that limited access to modern tools for news production, editing, and digital dissemination, inadequate funding, reduced capacity for media campaigns and public engagement initiatives, etc. undermined the Agency's operations.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee recommends that the Agency's 2025 allocation of NLe 800,000 be approved, while considering the provision of

additional funds to enable it invest in modern technology, build the capacity of staff through training, enhance editorial independence, ensure strategic partnership with local and international media organisations, and expansion of digital platforms.

VOTE [133-02] THE OUTREACH COORDINATION UNIT - MOICE

The Outreach Coordination Unit, also known as the Strategic Communications Unit, (Stratcom) was created in August 2018 primarily to bridge the communications gap between government and the public using diverse approaches and channels involving traditional and social media, Town Halls, community engagements, public lectures, etc. In a nutshell, the Unit articulates the policies, programmes, achievements and challenges of government and brings back feedback from the public to government for its intervention.

For 2024 FY, the Unit did not submit any budget, but the Ministry of Finance however allocated the sum of **NLe 1,388,800**. This allocation was utilised on administrative and operating expenses. It was however observed that the Unit encountered series of challenges, including inadequate funding to undertake outreach activities, lack resources to procure standard equipment, mobility, etc.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends that the Agency's 2025 allocation of NLe 1,543,200 be approved, while considering the provision of additional funds to enable it undertake outreach activities and address its mobility challenge.

VOTE: 425- 01: SIERRA LEONE ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY – SLRSA

SLRSA was established by statute in 1996 and amended in 2014 to regulate among others the conduct of the road transport industry. In addition to the Authority's responsibility for registering and licensing of motor vehicles and Drivers, it also has a statutory mandate to promote and enforce road safety.

As one of the largest revenue generation entities of Government, SLRSA generated the sum of **NLe 56,366,807.06** from fee levies, and other proceeds from operating activities out of a target of **NLe108,442,515.00**. The Authority's inability to meet its target, according to the Vote Controller, was due to the failure of vehicle owners and drivers to obtain valid licenses, poor enforcement of existing road safety Acts and regulations, absence of a comprehensive data system to inform policy and planning, inadequate judicial response to offenders, inadequate vehicle inspection due to lack of equipment and inadequate funding. The Authority's revenue target for 2025 FY is **NLe 114,553,234**.

The Committee observed that no allocation was made to the Authority, but the Committee recommends it retains 60% of the 2025 projected revenue.

VOTE 407 01- MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

The Ministry of Employment Labour and Social Security is a Ministry that stimulates remunerative and productive employment, promotes dignity of employees and employers in the formal and informal sectors through decent work. It develops and implements policies and programmes on employment creation, workplace harmony, safety and health at work and an all-inclusive social security system.

In 2024 FY, the Ministry submitted a budget of **NLe 20,596,920.00**, but was allocated the sum of **NLe 12,543,300.00**. This was said to be expended on key deliverables, such as Administrative Cost, Facilitate the enactment of draft labour bills, labour market information system developed, consultative meeting to promote labour administration, Increased Coverage on Social Protection, etc.

For 2025 FY, the Ministry submitted a budget of **NLe 33,114,945.00**, but **NLe 15,026,300.00** was allocated by the Ministry of Finance. The PS disclosed that the allocation would be used on general administration, Implement the enacted Labour Laws, Labour Market information system developed, implement the decent work country programme, establish the national social protection authority and facilitate the digitalisation of work permit.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee considered the Ministry's allocation of NLe 15,026,300.00 as adequate and therefore recommends for its approval.

VOTE: 427-01- NATIONAL FERTILIZER REGULATORY AGENCY

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members, the Government of Republic of Sierra Leone established the Sierra Leone National Fertilizer Regulatory Agency through an Act of Parliament in 2020. The Act also embodies government's recognition of the critical role of this Agency in terms of ensuring adequate supply of fertilizers and pesticides at reasonable prices; protecting the public from the risk of the inherent use of pesticides; and educating the agricultural sector in the use of these inputs. The Act also allows the agency to utilise its funds for its operations.

In 2024 FY, the Agency was allocated **NLe 1,515,200** which was expended on administrative costs, disaster risk management and operations, national emergency relief support, etc.

For 2025 FY, the Agency submitted a budget of **NLe 10,384,600** to the Ministry of Finance, but was allocated a budget of **NLe 3,366,800.00**. According to the Vote Controller, the decrease would major operations of the Agency. The Committee further noted that the Agency encountered some challenges during the implementation of the 2024 budget, including late release of funds by the Ministry of Finance, inadequate funding, understaffing, mobility, etc.

With those observations, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance improves on its timely release of funds to this Agency, so as to enhance effective service delivery and its 2025 allocation be approved.

VOTE 701- 09- KAMBIA DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, the Kambia District Council was created by an Act of Parliament and has existed on a platform of decentralization that exists to perform state functions through the development of state authority. Quite apart from its avowed aim to encourage increased local participation in the running of the Council. It has a responsibility to promote development in the district.

In 2024 FY, this Council submitted a budget of **NLe 10,332,270.00**, but nonetheless allocated **NLe 5,358,898.00** by the Ministry of Finance. This allocation was used on general administration and supports to devolved sectors.

For 2025 FY, the Council submitted an original budget of **NLe 12,614,140.00**, but **NLe 14,653,438.00** was actually allocated.

The Committee noted that out of revenue target of **NLe 17,333,308** in 2024 FY, Council collected **NLe 11,366,056**, registering a shortfall of **NLe 5,967,252**. The shortfall was attributed to some challenges, including political interference, capacity gap among revenue collectors, perennial battle between Council and Chiefdom Authorities, etc.

In that regard, the Committee recommends that Council's 2025 allocation of NLe 14,653,438.00 be approved. The Committee also recommends that Council sets realistic revenue target and develop a comprehensive database of its revenue sources.

VOTE [422 – 01] SIERRA LEONE METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

The Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency was an Agency under the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, but now under the Ministry of Environment, with the mandate to provide cost effective weather and climate services by collecting, processing, archiving and disseminating meteorological and climatological information to support end-users and thus contributing to the management of Sierra Leone environment.

In 2024 FY, the Agency submitted a budget of **NLe 8,591,870**, but was allocated **NLe 2,683,400**. **This was utilised on various deliverables, including** Administrative Cost Enhanced Logistical support service delivery, Improved quality of forecasts, advisories and early warning, improved access to weather and climate information, products and early warnings, improved relevance of weather and climate information, products and early warnings, enhanced partnership in improving weather and climate information, products and early warnings, etc.

For 2025 FY, the Agency submitted a budget of **NLe 8,338,000** to the Ministry of Finance, was however allocated the sum of **NLe 5,963,300**. **This allocation, according to the Vote Controller, would be used on general administration**, Enhanced quality and uninterrupted aviation meteorological services delivery, provide weather information to enhance climate smart agriculture training of selected farmers for integrating climate information in their practices, provision of reliable public weather forecast, public relations expenses, etc.

For 2025 FY, the Agency was allocated **NLe 5,963,300**, which the Committee deemed as adequate. According to the Director General the decrease would affect the implementation of aviation meteorological operations, agromet operations, expansion of early warning system for the safety of people, public engagement on weather climate change related activities and climate change domestication.

After critical examination of documents submitted by the Agency, the Committee recommends that the Agency's 2025 allocation of NLe 5,963,300 be approved.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members, haven conducted the inquiries and reviewed votes for various MDAs, the Committee hereby recommends that the Report of the Appropriation Sub-committee No. 8 be adopted by this Honourable House and that the recommendations contained therein on Budget Heads, including Sub-Heads of MDAs listed below be approved:

2025 Budget Allocations

| NO | VOTE | DIVISION | VOTE DESCRIPTION | TOTAL SUM VOTED |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|---|------------------------|
| 1 | 133 | 01 | Ministry of Information and Civic Education | 6,436,000 |
| 2 | 133 | 02 | Outreach Coordination Unit | 1,543,200 |
| 3 | 133 | 04 | Sierra Leone News Agency | 800,000 |
| 4 | 208 | 01 | National Fire Force | 12,808,300 |
| 5 | 213 | 01 | National Disaster Management Agency | 11,423,500 |
| 6 | 407 | 01 | Ministry of Labour and Social Security | 15,026,300 |
| 7 | 422 | 01 | Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency | 5,963,300 |
| 8 | 425 | 01 | Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority | 107,564,000 |
| 9 | 427 | 01 | National Fertilizer Regulatory Agency | 3,366,800.00 |
| 10 | 419 | 01 | Sierra Leone Local Content Agency | 3,621,200.00 |
| 11 | 308 | 01 | National Commission for Social Action | 8,640,800.00 |
| 12 | 701 | 06 | Kono District Council | 12,499,901.00 |
| 13 | 701 | 09 | Kambia District Council | 14,653,438.00 |

HON. QUINTIN SALIA KONNEH: Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, just a few concerns, and I Would take you to Page six [6] with regards the general findings. For us, our general findings are a bite different from the usual, so I beg to read.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, after thorough scrutiny of all MDAs under our purview, the Committee arrived at the following general observation and recommendations:

That most of the MDAs alleged that they did not receive Questionnaires, Time Table and venues schedule on time. And besides, the time allocated to them to appropriately respond to the questionnaires was not adequate. In like manner, the Committee also observed that by the time the questionnaires were completed, the Committee Members had little time to digest and identify lacunas in the questionnaires.

In that vein, the Committee recommends that MDAs are given questioners through the various Standing Committees prior to the commencement of the Sub-Appropriation session. Instead of sending the questionnaires to the Ministries directly, the Parliamentary Budget Office should receive answered questionnaires at least a week earlier to the hearing to enhance proper analysis and scrutiny.

Secondly, the Committee also observed that there was a lot of over spending of the budget. Some MDAs spent huge amount of monies on irrelevant activities and items like Top-up, and this was peculiar to the Kambia District; they spent huge amount of monies on top up, leaving out relevant performance evidenced activities.

The Committee also observed that most of the Chief Administrators were newly transferred to the Councils, and so they could not properly respond to most of the questions asked because the activities predated their arrivals in those Councils.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, having concluded the inquires and reviewed the Votes of various MDAs, the Committee hereby recommends that the Reports of the Appropriation Sub-Committee **No.8** be adopted by this Honourable House, and that the Recommendations contained therein on the Budget be approved.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Honourable Member. Madam Minister, go on.

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

2025 Budget Allocations

| NO | VOTE | DIVISION | VOTE DESCRIPTION | TOTAL SUM VOTED |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|---|------------------------|
| 1 | 133 | 01 | Ministry of Information and Civic Education | 6,436,000 |
| 2 | 133 | 02 | Outreach Coordination Unit | 1,543,200 |
| 3 | 133 | 04 | Sierra Leone News Agency | 800,000 |
| 4 | 208 | 01 | National Fire Force | 12,808,300 |
| 5 | 213 | 01 | National Disaster Management Agency | 11,423,500 |
| 6 | 407 | 01 | Ministry of Labour and Social Security | 15,026,300 |
| 7 | 422 | 01 | Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency | 5,963,300 |
| 8 | 425 | 01 | Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority | 107,564,000 |
| 9 | 427 | 01 | National Fertilizer Regulatory Agency | 3,366,800.00 |
| 10 | 419 | 01 | Sierra Leone Local Content Agency | 3,621,200.00 |
| 11 | 308 | 01 | National Commission for Social Action | 8,640,800.00 |
| 12 | 701 | 06 | Kono District Council | 12,499,901.00 |
| 13 | 701 | 09 | Kambia District Council | 14,653,438.00 |

[QUESTION PROPOSED, PUT AND AGREED TO]

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

GROUP ELEVEN

VOTES

13901, 11201, 11202, 10701, 10703, 13001, 11001, 11002, 41201, 11203, 12901, 11204, 31901, 11205, 12801, 10100, 12802, 12804, 12805, 12806, 12807, 12808, 12809, 12810, 12811, 12812, 12813, 12814, 12815, 12816, 12817, 12818, 12819, 12820, 12821, 12822, 12823, 12824, 12825, 12826, 12827, 12828, 12829, 30002,

34101, 34201, 43001, 50901, 60101, 61001, 61101, 61201, 70101 and 70102 and various to stand part of the schedule.

THE CHAIRMAN: Who is the Chairman of this Committee? How did you arrive at this number of Votes? This is one Committee multiply by five.

Madam Minister, before you put the question, are all these High Commissions under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or they appear as separate Votes?

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: They are under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

THE SPEAKER: So why did they treat them as separate Votes?

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: All the Foreign Missions are under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for example, Foreign Affairs was allocated to this Group.

THE SPEAKER: So Foreign Affairs was under this Committee?

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Yes, so that is the reason. So the same amount of MDAs were allocated to all Groups, and of course and unallocated; these are things you have to understand, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: What I see are two distinct issues; the first is Vote 12801-all of the Missions are under Vote **12801**. The second is Ministry of Finance. I see that Public Debt is treated as a separate Vote- it should not; the Public Debt is a unit under the Ministry of Finance. I also see that the Contingency Fund is treated as a Vote- it is not a Vote. I see the Special Warrant of the President is indicated as a Vote... *[Interrupted]*

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Chairman, we need your edification in this. So if you make an early input, you would also deprive us from asking the relevant questions

THE CHAIRMAN: Very well, Honourable Member.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Chairman, specific resources are allocated to Votes Heads, correct? Water Ministry is heading all the other Water Regulating Agencies but they are not having their Votes under one Ministry. All Embassies have their own Vote Heads and they account for themselves. If we want to say all of them are under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and that is the excuse, let us take off all the Votes Heads and deal with Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an Institution. Even when you go to the Audit Service Report, they will not hold the Ministry of Finance accountable for all the Embassies, no, that is not how it is done. So if we treat Institutions, and they are given Vote Heads, it means they are Independent Institutions; we must treat them therefore as they are. We must not have bad precedents in this Parliament. If you want to address the issue, address the issue based on this line:

Are they all under one Vote as Ministry of Foreign Affairs? If yes, let us remove all the other Vote Heads they have been given. Now we know that all Embassies are under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, please let us know that, or else you are putting the Leadership of this Parliament under disrepute and questions. While other Committees do not have up to nine Vote Heads to superintend, you have fifty four under one Group- that is unprecedented; that is greed.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I want to hold you there because I see motion is running in. Firstly, the Votes in question are under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Why is it that they are treated as Sub-Votes of the Ministry? If you go to the Public Financial Management Act, you would realize that there are Votes, and there are Sub-Votes Heads. And these Missions are treated as Sub-Vote Heads. Monies allocated to them are principally for their other charges. You would realize that for the Ministry of Water Resources, the Votes Number that the Ministry of Water Resources has is the same Vote Number that the Sierra Leone Water Company [SALWACO] share, and it is the same Votes Number for Guma Valley.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Chairman, I just want to ask one question: has this been the precedent in this Parliament?

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I have never seen the Missions treated as this.

HON ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Thank you! So if it is not a precedent, what we need to do as Leaders is to discourage every bad precedent. Mr Chairman we are Leaders, but we are also training other Leaders. If we accept wrong proceedings, we are not only making Parliament a chaotic place; we must not allow bad precedent. What I expect from you as a ruling is, if this is...

THE CHAIRMAN: I have not made a ruling, Honourable Member. I think we are just throwing light on the issue and to clarify, because it would be egregious for me to make a ruling when I know reference can be made to a document [*the Public Financial Management*]. However, if we report them as they are now, that is where I would agree with you, it will mean that they appeared before the Committee.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: And that is the problem, Mr Chairman. If you say Foreign Affairs should account for all of these Embassies, and you are reporting on these Embassies as they are, it would mean that they appeared physically before the Committee; which is not the case.

Secondly, we need to investigate whether the Ministry of Foreign Affairs indeed represented all these Embassies we are talking about. If not, what do we do about the other Embassies that are not been represented here? What do we do with them as per proceeding?

THE CHAIRMAN: Because if you go to the Budget and look at the other charges for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it amounts to **NLe170MIn**. If you look at the current allocation on their report, you would realize that it is **NLe83MIn**. So the remainder of the **Le170MIn** is spread across all of these Missions.

So Mr Chairman of this Committee, it is a clear indication that all of these Missions are reported under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, the Report should not have captured them as separate Votes of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, but I want to say few things because I want the Leader on the other side to understand that of course, all of these Sub-Heads are on the Appropriation Bill itself, and that these are Sub-Heads under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is complicating the matter.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: No they are not; the Minister will have to clarify that.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is complicating matters.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Mr Chairman, let me finish, please.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Chair, I want to address it, do not complicate it.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: No.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Chairman, let me make this clarification.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: No, if you could allow me,...

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, I will give you the Floor, hold on let him finish his submission.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Okay.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Very well, very well. Mr Chairman, the way the Whip of the APC is going about this issue is as if it has not been the case before; this has been the practice. All along we have been reporting these various Sub-Heads under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this same way, and even the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has

been reporting on them. The Minister will have to make a comment on that, but that is the situation, definitely.

THE CHAIRMAN: So let me hear the Leader and I will listen to the Minister.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Yes, Mr Chairman, you know that we similarly have all Councils under the Ministry of Local Government. Because they all have their Votes, they are treated independently because they all have to account. So even the Foreign Missions, because they all have their Votes, they should be treated independently. It is not a must that only one Committee should handle all of them because they are under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. If that is the case, then we would have given all the Councils which are under the Ministry of Local Government to one Committee as well. So what I am saying is that because they all have Votes, they should be accountable individually, or else, if they are not accountable they should not form part of the report of the Appropriation Committee of Parliament.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Chairman, let me give you an example; the Judiciary of Sierra Leone...[Interrupted]

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: I think at this moment we have to allow the Minister to make a comment on this.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: No, let me come, no let me come. Mr Chairman, please wait for me.

THE CHAIRMAN: I cannot take two people at the same time.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: We have to allow the Minister to shed light on this at this moment

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: No please, Mr Chairman, please.

THE CHAIRMAN: I cannot take two people at the same time.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: These are Sub-Heads, they are not Vote Heads, and you have to understand that.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: No, that is not what I am saying, wait. Mr Chairman, under the Judiciary...

THE CHAIRMAN: I cannot take two people at the same time; you refer it to the **SOs**.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Honourable Member, allow me to state my point.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: But you were not even given the Floor, you just interrupted.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: No, I was.

HON. FRANCIS KAISAMBA: No, you were not.

THE CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, I ask you both to resume your seats.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: That is it.

THE CHAIRMAN: S.O 32[2], I cannot take two people at the same time. I am ready to listen even though time is not in my favour, but I am ready to listen and you should do it briskly and briefly; make sure you make your submission as sumptuous as possible and you summarize the summary.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Thank you very much. Mr Chairman, under the Judiciary we have the Local Court, under the Judiciary we have the Judicial Service Commission, Under the Judiciary you have the Legal Service Commission, and you have the Law School. In fact when they came for Appropriation, one was to report to Honourable Munda from Bo, the same institution was also reporting to Honourable Maada Lebbie, and they were reporting to Honourable Marray Conteh. They are the same people; they just had to move for one place to another. We would have just said

because they are under the same Institution and the same Votes Controller, let it just be the same.

Mr Chairman, we are saying this for the sake of practice. Let us even assume they are one, but because they are different Embassies, let us share them to different Committees where they will go to report. For instance, France goes to Group 1, England goes to Group 2 etc. So even if it is under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, they will be reporting to different Groups. Except otherwise; that should be the practice, Mr Chairman. I have been in this Parliament for six years, if the Chairman is saying that is the practice, it was never reported in this manner.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Leader and you know even in court the judge does not make ruling without making references, and by the budget before me, I see that I have only vote **128**. So who is the clerk for this committee? I have only one vote 128 and under vote **128**, you will see administrative and operational cost of new Ambassadors and Diplomats, rent for Foreign Missions, vehicle for Foreign Mission, High Commission London, UN delegation New York of which support to Security Council office, High Commission Abuja, and the list of Embassies. So it means you should have listed all of them as vote **128-01** not as vote **128-02, 128-03**- they are not votes.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: So again, we do not have the Appropriation Bill before us now because that is a Statement.

THE CHAIRMAN: The statement is; the Votes of these are a reflection of the Appropriation.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Mr Chairman, I am coming. So when you look at the Votes, the Appropriation Bill, it now clearly states, for example, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, all of these Sub-Heads are harmonized. Mr Chairman, you were Chairman of the Sub-Appropriation last year.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, and one of my recommendations was that the Ministry and Agencies under the same Vote Heads be allocated to one Committee.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Yes, we harmonized all of them, for example; Office of the Vice President has Scaling up Nutrition, and they have four sub institutions under it. They were harmonized this year under the Office of the Vice President because those ones report directly under the Office of the Vice President. It has never been that all of these institutions were reported on by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They are not separate Votes but they are just Sub-Heads.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Chairman, on the understanding that the Budget Speech has given me clarity on the Votes; I would encourage Clerks of Committees not to reinvent the wheel. The Budget is Law, and it should follow strict-to-senso the Principles of the Law. The Principle of this Law is that one Vote Head carries other Sub-Heads under it, and they should not be given separate Vote Heads. On that understanding, I do not know whether the Minister has pronounced the Votes?

HON. FRANCIS KAISAMBA: Yes, let us allow the Minister to say something.

THE CHAIRMAN: Madam Minister, pronounce the Votes as **128**, and the Missions should not be pronounced as **128 [01], 128 [02]**. Pronounce it as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of which the Missions are part, and you move to the next Vote.

HON. SAA EMERSON LAMINA: Mr Chairman, before the Minister pronounces the Votes please allow me to say something.

THE CHAIRMAN: I rule you out of Order; I have made a decision under **S.O 42**.

HON. SAA EMERSON LAMINA: Really, Mr Chairman? I am afraid, I cannot contest **S.O 42**

THE CHAIRMAN: I rule you out of Order; I have made a decision under **S.O 42**. Madam Minister, save us time and do it quickly.

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

Table 1: MDAs Account Heads and their Allocations for 2025

| Vote | Div. | Vote Description/MDA | Amount [NLe] |
|-------------|-------------|--|---------------------|
| 139 | 1 | National Commission for Privatisation [NCP] | 2,602,800 |
| 122 | 1 | Office of the vice President | 15,290,300 |
| 122 | 02 | Scaling Up Nutrition | 5,000,000 |
| 107 | 1 | Freetown City Council [FCC] | 23,983,116 |
| 107 | 03 | Kenema City Council | 6,921,317 |
| 130 | 1 | National Revenue Authority [NRA] | 425,647,000 |
| 110 | 01 | Office of the Secretary to President | 79,435,800 |
| 110 | 02 | Office of the Chief of Staff | 4,328,500. |
| 412 | 1 | National Telecommunication Authority [NaTCA] | 322,950,800 |
| 112 | 3 | Millennium Challenge Compact Secretariat | 1,584,300 |
| 129 | 1 | Ministry of Finance | 137,301,100 |
| | | | |
| 112 | 4 | S/L Extractive Industries, Transparency Initiative Secretariat | 2,500,000 |
| 319 | 1 | Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs | 3,734,400 |
| 112 | 5 | National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Centre | 6,894,900 |
| 128 | 01 | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation | 83,986,000 |
| 300 | 02 | Grants to Tertiary Institutions | 136,989,000 |
| 341 | 01 | Pensions Gratuities and Retirement Benefit [See Note One] | See Note 1 |
| 342 | 01 | Contribution to Social Security [See Note] | See note 2 |

| | | | |
|---------|----|--|----------------------|
| | | two] | |
| 430 | 01 | Cargo Tracking Fees Transfers to Sierra Leone Ports Authority | 255,698,700 |
| 509 | 01 | Domestic Suppliers Arrears | 259,583,500 |
| 601 | 01 | Public Debt Charges | 9,317,961,800 |
| 610 | 01 | Contingency Fund [S36 PFM Act, 2016] | 15,000,000 |
| 611 | 01 | Special Warrants of the President [38 PFM Act, 2016] | 10,000,000 |
| 612 | 01 | Unallocated Head of Expenditures [S39 PFM Act, 2016] | 10,000,000 |
| 701 | 01 | Local Government Administration Grants | 29,163,800 |
| 701 | 02 | Sensitisation on Fire Prevention Services | 4,006,300 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Education Services | 161,361,300 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Youth and Sports Services | 9,686,400 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Solid Waste Management Serv. | 12,830,200 |
| 701 | 02 | Environment and Forestry | 7,709,300 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Monthly Cleaning Services | 10,188,000 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Agriculture and Food Security Services | 47,093,900 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Rural Water Service | 7,592,100 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs Services | 10,777,400 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Functions – Health Care Services | 38,747,200 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Fisheries and Marine Resources | 4,947,900 |
| Various | | Salaries and Wages [Notes 1 and 2] | 7,626,683,100 |
| Various | | Capital Transfers- Recapitalisation | 1,258,785,600 |
| Various | | Development Activities -Feed Salone | 747,233,700 |
| Various | | Development Activities- Human Capital Development | 208,158,900 |
| Various | | Development Activities- Youth Empowerment | 19,600,000 |
| Various | | Development Activities- Infrastructure Technology and Innovation | 776,344,200 |
| Various | | Development Activities- Revamping the Public Service Administration | 5,000,000 |

| | | | |
|---------|--|---|--------------------|
| Various | | Development Activities- Enablers to the Five Game Charges | 437,662,800 |
|---------|--|---|--------------------|

[QUESTION PROPOSED]

HON. MOSES EDWIN: Mr Chairman, Honorable Members, I beg to lay the Report of Sub-Appropriation Committee **No.11** on behalf of the Committee Chairman, Honorable Francis A. Kaisamba and Members.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, budget scrutiny is one of the major functions of the Sierra Leone Parliament. In parliamentary parlance, it is referred to as the ‘legislature’s power of the purse;’ which by implication it is the central point of reference in terms of public accountability. Thus, Parliament has the power and authority [as inscribed in Section 112, Subsections 1-5 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone; and Section 3[a-b] of the Public Financial Management Act, 2015], to make amendments to the budget proposals.

This year’s budget, as the theme illustrates “***Improving the wellbeing and Quality of Life of Sierra Leoneans***” has a clear forecast on sound Macro-economic policies, aiming at rebuilding the country after the cessation VOVID 19 virus through the implementation of the ‘Big Five Game Changer; vis-à-vis, Feed Salone [*an initiative to boost agricultural productivity to ensure food security*]; human capital development [*nurturing skills*]; youth employment scheme [*creating jobs for the youth*]; revamping the public service architecture [*fostering a professional meritocratic public service*]; and tech and infrastructure [*investing in infrastructure technology and digitisation*]. The Committee undertook this exercise as a way of complying with Section 112, Sub-Section 6 of the National Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act **No. 6** of 1991, and Sections 64 [3] and 66 [1] of the Standing Orders of Parliament. These legal frameworks, upon which

Sub-Appropriation Committee 11 undertook this exercise, were meant to carefully examine and analyse the 2024 allocations to the various MDAs, and to justify if their budget submissions for 2025 are in accordance with their work plans.

2. SCOPE OF THE EXERCISE

This Report covers 15 MDAs as mentioned below:

Table 1: MDAs Account Heads and their Allocations for 2025

| Vote | Div. | Vote Description/MDA | Amount [NLe] |
|-------------|-------------|--|---------------------|
| 139 | 1 | National Commission for Privatisation [NCP] | 2,602,800 |
| 122 | 1 | Office of the vice President | 15,290,300 |
| 122 | 02 | Scaling Up Nutrition | 5,000,000 |
| 107 | 1 | Freetown City Council [FCC] | 23,983,116 |
| 107 | 03 | Kenema City Council | 6,921,317 |
| 130 | 1 | National Revenue Authority [NRA] | 425,647,000 |
| 110 | 01 | Office of the Secretary to President | 79,435,800 |
| 110 | 02 | Office of the Chief of Staff | 4,328,500. |
| 412 | 1 | National Telecommunication Authority [NaTCA] | 322,950,800 |
| 112 | 3 | Millennium Challenge Compact Secretariat | 1,584,300 |
| 129 | 1 | Ministry of Finance | 137,301,100 |
| | | | |
| 112 | 4 | S/L Extractive Industries, Transparency Initiative Secretariat | 2,500,000 |
| 319 | 1 | Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs | 3,734,400 |
| 112 | 5 | National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Centre | 6,894,900 |
| 128 | 01 | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation | 83,986,000 |

PROCEDURE

Sub-Appropriation Committee 11 followed the established procedures in scrutinising heads of expenditures assigned therein. The Committee sent out questionnaire to all its MDAs for detailed information relating to their 2024 FY budgetary activities. Pursuant to S.O 66[1], Vote Controllers were summoned to come along with their financial documents pertaining to revenue and expenditure of their MDAs in order to ascertain the efficient and effective use of both human and financial resources, their constraints and the adequacy of their allocations. All legal provisions relating to this exercise were read out to all officials of MDAs and the Vote Controllers and their Accounting Officers were put on oath to ascertain the authenticity of their submissions.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EXERCISE

The Committee undertook this exercise with the following objectives:

- i. to investigate whether MDAs complied with their statutory obligations by deducting and paying all statutory funds to the relevant institutions;
- ii. to ascertain whether MDAs adhered to financial management regulations as means of enhancing accountability in the utilisation of resources;
- iii. to establish whether allocations were disbursed on time and in line with what was approved by Parliament;
- iv. to find out whether MDAs adhered to the **30%** quota in terms of women's representation in the employment process;
- v. to provide justifications whether there is need for budget increase, decrease or otherwise;
- vi. to determine whether revenue generating MDAs were successful in terms of achieving their revenue targets and the reasons for exceeding or for under performance; and
- vii. to discuss the challenges encountered by MDAs in the course of implementing their previous financial year's deliverables, how those challenges impacted service delivery and their intension to resolve same in their planned activities.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, the Sub Appropriation Committee 11 comprised of the following members:

1. Hon. Francis A. Kaisamba – Chairman
2. Hon. Edwin Moses A. - Deputy Chairman
3. Hon Hawanatu Alice Kallon – Member
4. Hon. Mohamed Biloh Shaw – Member
5. Hon Marie Kamara – Member
6. Hon Mohamed Alpha Jalloh – Member
7. Hon. Momoh Bockarie – Member
8. Hon Hawa Conteh – Member
9. Hon Jawah Sesay – Member
10. Hon Osman Wurie Jalloh – Member
11. Hon Mabinty Alice Taylor – Member
12. Hon Emilia Lolo Tongi – Member

SUPPORT STAFF,

1. Mr Mohamed M. Ngevao – Lead Clerk
2. Mohamed Daboh- Clerk
3. Gideon Tamba Fayia- Clerk

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I wish to draw the attention of this House to the following general observations in respect of the budget approval process.

i. Gender Disparity in the Employment Process of MDAs

Following the examination of records and the Committee's engagements with Managements, it was found that MDAs did not adequately take into account women in the employment process. The Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Act, which this House enacted into law in 2022, is being undermined by this action.

With that being noted, the Committee recommends that the parliamentary Committee on Gender collaborates with MDAs with a view to ensuring that women are given full consideration for any future employments.

ii. Own-Source Revenue Projections Not Met

From the review of documents presented to this Committee, it was observed that most revenue generating MDAs, including the two Local Councils, failed to achieve their revenue targets. The Committee however noted a number of factors that could have caused revenue underperformance, such as unrealistic revenue projections, lack of comprehensive database of revenue sources and laxity displayed by Managements to collect the required revenue.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends that:

- ❖ ***revenue generating MDAs should put in place measures that geared towards maximising revenue collection, such as the development of comprehensive database of their revenue streams. This will help to ensure realistic revenue projections; and***
- ❖ ***allocations for revenue generating MDAs should be tied or linked to their revenue performance, so as to address the issue of 'laissez-fair approach' to revenue mobilisation.***

iii. Use of Wrong Procurement Method in the Procurement Activities

It was noted from the documents reviewed that, in violation of Section 37 [2] of the Public Procurement Act of 2016, majority of procurement transactions for goods and services were split to allow for Requests for Quotation [RfQ], rather than the National Competitive Bidding [NCB] method.

Based on the foregoing, the Committee recommends the following:

- ❖ ***Accounting Officers must comply with all procurement laws at all time and in all circumstances, emergency or in normal situations; and***
- ❖ ***the National Public Procurement Act of 2016 be amended to include severe penalties for such breaches. This will minimise or completely eliminate flagrant violations.***

iv. Inadequate and Late Remittance of funds to MDAs

From the review of documents and the Committee's discussions with Managements, the Committee observed inadequate and persistent delays in the release of MDAs' allocations, which resulted in uncompleted activities and projects that were rolled over. These rolled over expenditures were not adequately defended by some Vote Controllers and could also be a recipe for miss-direction of public funds.

Whilst the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance improves on the timely release of funds to MDAs, the Parliamentary Committee on Finance should investigate the rollover expenditures of MDAs.

v. Under and/or Over Allocation of Funds to MDAs

It was noted that most MDAs experienced budget cuts even after Parliament had approved specific amounts, begging the question the whereabouts of the balance. In other instances, some MDAs received more than what was appropriated by Parliament, in contravention of PART VI, Sections 111-114 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone.

In consideration of these observations, the Committee recommends that:

- ❖ ***going forward, the Ministry of Finance should present a report to Parliament regarding MDAs that did not receive their complete allocations approved by Parliament three months before the commencement of every appropriation exercise, with reasons that could have led to incomplete allocations; and***

- ❖ *the Ministry of Finance needs to stop disbursing funds that were not appropriated by Parliament. However, the Ministry is encouraged to be submitting Supplementary Budgets for legislative approval.*

vi. Payments of Statutory Obligations

The Committee observed that almost all MDAs that appeared before it have fully settled their liabilities with NRA and NASSIT. This cannot be unconnected with the radical approach of the Public Accounts Committee [PAC] to recover state funds.

While commending the PAC membership for their robustness in recouping state funds and the MDAs for their compliance, the Committee is concerned over the late payments of statutory obligations and therefore recommends that Accounting Officers adhere to the requirements of deducting and paying to the respective institutions on time, in order to avoid or minimise the risk of penalty charges and depriving the state of the much needed revenue.

SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, during the exercise, the following general observations and recommendations were noted:

139 01 NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PRIVATISATION

The National Commission for Privatisation [NCP] was established by an Act of Parliament in 2002 with the mandate to supervise, monitor and increase the participation of the private sector in state owned enterprises. The Commission's overall objectives, as enshrined in Part V of Section 19 of the NCP Act are:

- ❖ to enable the Public Sector to focus on the efficient delivery of basic services to the poor, especially in the rural areas;
- ❖ to allow wider Private sector participation and thereby enhance economic opportunities, increase economic growth and provide jobs to address the unemployment in the country; and

- ❖ to remove the fiscal burden imposed by non-performing enterprises on the government budget.

For 2024 FY, the Commission's original budget submitted to the Ministry of Finance was **NLe10, 189,702**, but was allocated **NLe 2,342,487**. It was however discovered that the Commission received **NLe 2,953,380**, slightly above what was allocated. The Committee noted from the review of documents and its discussions with Management that this amount was expended on general administration, enhancing divestiture and privatisation, business and assets valuation of public enterprises, international travels, workshops, etc.

The Committee also noted that Management complied with their statutory obligations, but expressed worry about the Commission's lack of consideration for gender, pointing out that only 3 of the 24 employees are females. Discussing the challenges that affected the smooth implementation of planned activities, the Vote Controller unveiled that some clauses in the 2002 NCP Act are no longer relevant or useful, negative public perception about privatisation and ministerial interference in the affairs of state-owned enterprises.

The Committee further discovered that the achievements of planned deliverables were negatively impacted by inadequate and late remittance of funds, particularly the ones pertaining to contracting a professional firm or consultant to conduct valuation of public firms prior to privatisation process, salaries and conditions of service, capacity building, etc. In fact, the Committee observed that the salaries of staff in the institutions the Commission is overseeing almost triple theirs, an area the Committee noted as demotivating and could result in high attrition rate if not addressed with urgency.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee recommends the following:

i. this House approves the Commission's 2025 budget of NLe2,602,800 while considering the provision of supplementary budget to enable them address certain challenges affecting the institution's operations;

- ii. the Committee on Finance investigates staff conditions of service with a view to narrowing the gap that exists between staff of the Commission and those they supervise in other institutions;*
- iii. Given the fundamental shifts in the nation's economic or business environment, the Commission ought to expedite the review process of the 2002 NCP Act more quickly, in order to update outdated provisions and include a provision that allows 5% retention of the Commission's revenue collected from SOEs. This review process will mitigate the effects of insufficient and late release of funds by the Ministry of Finance, as well as excessive ministerial interference;*
- iv. the Commission should intensify its public sensitisation on various modes of privatisation and their benefits; and*
- v. even though some stakeholders considered the operations of NCP as threat to their power and influence, the Commission should foster a constructive discourse that improves coordination and guarantees the execution of privatisation measures or reforms.*

[VOTE 112 01] OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT [VP]

The Office of the Vice President is the Official Administrative seat of the Second Gentle Man of the Republic of Sierra Leone. He is the Principal Assistant to the President in the discharge of President's executive functions and he should always be in readiness to carry out the Constitutional and delegated duties from His Excellency the President. Apart from providing advice to the President on major matters relating to internal security, superintending the decentralisation process as Chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on decentralisation and coordinating the implementation of programmes/projects, in MDAs, that geared towards ensuring good governance and effective service delivery, the Office of VP also supervises the following Units:

- ❖ Scaling Up Nutrition [SUN];
- ❖ Millennium Challenge Coordinating Unit [MCC];
- ❖ Public Private Partnership Unit;
- ❖ Sierra Leone Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative;
- ❖ National Investment Board; and
- ❖ National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Centre.

For 2024 FY, the Office of the Vice President made an original budget submission of **NLe 55,729, 668** to the Ministry of Finance, but received **NLe 14,942,885**, less than what was approved. This amount was expended on the following deliverables:

- i. administrative cost;
- ii. monitoring of MDA activities;
- iii. quarterly meetings with community leaders;
- iv. convene inter-ministerial meetings and monitoring of local governance projects;
- v. Local and international travels; and
- vi.** Government support to civic, national and international funerals.

A critical review of the Office's expenditure matrix and other information provided by Management revealed that:

- ❖ the VP's Office is not a revenue generating entity and did not receive donations from any organisation, but however expended most of what was received on funerals, and local and international travels, administrative costs; and
- ❖ out of a total 166 staff, 54 are females, representing **32.5%**.

The Committee recommends that the 2025 allocation of NLe 15,290,300, is approved, while considering additional funds, given the vital role this Office plays in terms of arranging inter-ministerial meetings, meeting with community leaders, overseeing the decentralisation process, and coordinating the execution of programmes and projects.

VOTE 112 02 SCALING UP NUTRITION [OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT]

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, even though Scaling Up Nutrition is treated independently in the 2025 Appropriation Act, the financial reporting aspect of this Office still rests with the Office of the Vice President. For 2025 FY, Scaling Up Nutrition was allocated **NLe 5,000,000**.

In view of the above, the Committee deemed this institution's allocation to the tune of NLe 5,000,000 as adequate and therefore recommends for its approval.

VOTE [701 -01] FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL

The Freetown City Council [FCC] is the Municipal Government of the city of Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. The Freetown City Council was established in 1893 and is one of the oldest Municipal Governments in Africa. The Freetown City Council is responsible, generally, for promoting the development of the locality and welfare of the people in the Freetown Municipality with resources at its disposal acquired through licenses, dues, rates and support from both the Central Government and donors.

In 2024 financial year, Council's budget ceiling was **NLe 16,413,611**, but received **NLe 11,517,805.00** from the Ministry of Finance. This amount was expended on development projects, such as the construction of perimeter fence and installation of gate at Ascension Town Cemetery, construction of perimeter fence and installation of gate at Akibo Betts Municipal School, construction of perimeter fence at Ascension Kissy Road Cemetery, completion of Wilberforce Market, local and oversea travels, administration, etc.

Council's revenue target for 2024 FY was **NLe 54,961,346.00**, but collected **NLe 39,269,940.68** from various revenue streams, such as property rate, dumpsite fees,

rental of office building, change of name, property lease/rent, burial fees, local tax, municipal license, market dues, street parking, registration of CBOs, street naming, publicity permits, sewage fee, etc. The Committee also noted that FCC received **NLe 1,956,241.50** grant from P.S.S.N.Y.E. These funds were utilised on general administration, ward committees, free quality education, library services, youth affairs, solid waste management, secondary health care, fire prevention, marine resources, agricultural activities, environment, primary health care, sporting activities, etc.

Even though Council had doubled its effort in revenue collection by undertaking a geophysical mapping of property within the municipality, it was however noted that its revenue mobilisation fell by **28.5%**. The reason for this, as explained by Management, was due to low compliance, lack of mobility, disruption of economic activities, etc. The Committee further observed that Council lacked comprehensive database of revenue sources; and as a result, its revenue projections were based on conjecture. Nevertheless, concrete steps have been taken to address this, including the mapping exercise and investing in revenue generating projects.

For 2025 FY, Council submitted a budget of **NLe 20,984,115.48**, but was allocated **NLe 4,234,400**. The Committee also noted that Council's own source revenue target for the period under review is **NLe 77,147,441**. Management disclosed that the decrease in their allocation would undermine the operations and achievement of key deliverables.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee recommends the following:

- ❖ ***Given its own source revenue potentials, the Committee considered Council's allocation adequate and therefore recommends its approval;***
- ❖ ***Council should implement strategies that maximise revenue collection, such as creating a comprehensive database of all revenue streams to help Management make accurate revenue projections, and addressing the issue of mobility; and***

- ❖ *since Councillors live with their constituents, they could be involved in identifying new revenue streams because they know their communities and can regularly raise awareness on the need to pay tax.*

[VOTE 701 -01] KENEMA CITY COUNCIL

Kenema City is situated in the Nongowa Chiefdom, Eastern Sierra Leone. The Kenema City Council locality stretches about 5km radius and is bounded in the North-East by the Tisor Bridge, East by Combema bridge, South by Moa bridge, Bandama in the west, and the Kamboi Hill in the North and North West.

The Kenema City Council is responsible for promoting the development of the locality and welfare of the people in the Kenema Municipality with resources at its disposal acquired through licenses, dues, rates and support from both Central Government and Donor support.

In 2024 FY, Kenema City Council's original budget that was submitted to the Ministry of Finance was **NLe 4,057,997.85**. This amount was approved by the Ministry, but **NLe 3,122,798.00** was received. The Committee further noted that Council received funds totalling **NLe 4,032,149.37** from RMFA. These amounts were expended on the following key deliverables:

- ❖ maintenance of waste management vehicles and equipment;
- ❖ fuel and lubricants for effective functioning of waste management of vehicles;
- ❖ procurement of waste management PPEs to waste collectors;
- ❖ demarcation and fencing of the land fill site to prevent encroachment;
- ❖ procurement of stationeries and equipment;
- ❖ maintenance and grading of 40km feeder roads within the city;
- ❖ construction of an embankment of 10km marshy lands; and

- ❖ construction of 240 stores at humonya avenue.

The Committee observed that the late disbursement of funds affected the activities and administration of the Council. As at September, 2024, Council had a total of 127 staff, but only 33 are females, representing **26%**, slightly below the **30%** quota. It was further noted that Council had no outstanding tax liabilities.

For 2025 FY, Council's original budget submission was **NLe 4,709,317.00** and was approved by the Ministry of Finance. It was however observed that the actual amount allocated was **NLe 12,997,906**, which the Committee noted as adequate.

Examining Council's revenue performance for 2023 and 2024 FYs, the Committee discovered that in 2023 FY, Council generated total revenue of **NLe 3,050,940.00** out of a revenue target of **NLe 6,637,648.00**. This means only **46%** was collected. The main reasons advanced by Management for the fall in revenue were attributed to the drop in other sources and the reluctance of city dwellers to pay taxes and city rates.

In 2024 FY, Council projected **NLe 6,835,648.00**, but however collected **NLe 5,222,888.00**, representing **76%** from various revenue sources, such as property rate, business licenses, market dues, local tax, business name registration, **etc.** This indicates that Council's revenue collection increased by **30%** in 2024 when compared with 2023 revenue performance. Management however attributed the shortfall in revenue collection to political interference, tax evasion or tax avoidance, staff capacity and lack of mobility.

In consideration of the findings mentioned above, the Committee recommends the following:

- ❖ ***given its own source revenue potentials, the Committee considered Council's allocation adequate and therefore recommends its approval;***
- ❖ ***the Ministry of Finance should expedite timely disbursement of funds to enable Management undertake development projects;***

- ❖ *since Council has plans to increase its manpower in 2025 FY, Management should ensure that the 30% quota of women' representation is taken into serious consideration and every staffer must be adequately trained in revenue related activities;*
- ❖ *Council should continue to implements strategies geared towards maximising revenue collection, such as creating a comprehensive database of all revenue streams to enable them make accurate revenue projections, and addressing the issue of mobility; and*
- ❖ *Since Councillors live with their constituents, they could be involved in identifying new revenue streams because they know their communities and can regularly raise awareness on the need to pay taxes.*

[VOTE 130 01] NATIONAL REVENUE AUTHORITY

The National Revenue Authority was established by an Act of Parliament in 2002, but actual operations commenced in 2003. NRA was established to collect the needed revenue to finance the increasing government expenditure. NRA has been doing this effectively; as tax and non-tax revenue collection increases year after year. Its core objectives are to assess and collect revenue on behalf of Government, improve compliance and improve trade facilitation.

NRA's approved budget by the Ministry of Finance for 2024 FY was **NLe 435,301,904.00**, but was allocated **NLe 280,794,697.50**. However, the actual amount received was **NLe 252,654,242.10**, registering a decrease of **NLe 182,647,662 [42%]** from the approved amount. According to the Commissioner General, the **NLe 252,654,242.10** was allocated and expended on key deliverables, such as staff capacity building, systems strengthening stakeholder collaboration, compliance improvement, research studies to expand the tax base, taxpayer education and sensitisation, data accessibility and security, revenue focused policies and strategies, sustainability of reforms and change management, institutional image

rebranding, infrastructure development, operationalisation of the tax court, business continuity planning and motivation scheme.

The Commissioner General further disclosed that the decrease in their allocation affected the implementation of some deliverables as the institution is expending a huge chunk of its allocation on rent for most of its buildings across the country. This issue was raised in the last appropriation exercise, but no action was taken.

The Committee noted that NRA had fully complied with their statutory tax obligations for 2024 FY, but however fell short of the **30%** quota for women in terms of employment because out of a total of 817 staff, 607 [**74.3%**] were males while 210 [**25.7%**] were females.

For 2025 FY, the sum of **NLe 537,200,000** was approved, but **NLe 425,647,000** was allocated by the Ministry of Finance. The Commissioner General disclosed that if this allocation is fully disbursed, the Authority would commence the construction of some NRA regional offices.

NRA revenue projection for 2023 FY was **NLe 2,098,435,000.20**, but collected **NLe 2,924,469,000.67**, registering an increase of **NLe 826,034,000.47**. In 2024 FY, the Authority's revenue target was **NLe 10,607,199,000**, but collected **NLe 10,728,000,000** as at September, registering an increase of **NLe 120,800,000.98**. Comparatively, the Authority has made significant progress in revenue mobilisation, from **NLe2bln** in 2023 to **NLe10bln** in 2024. The revenue was collected from various revenue streams, such as income tax, GST, customs, import duties, royalties, etc.

According to Management, the reasons for exceeding targets were as a result of compliance tracking and enforcement, increase in dutiable import value, arrears collections from customs consistent with payment plan, tracking of outstanding payments, implementation of key revenue enhancement, upfront payment from bulk cement import, tobacco import and substantial import of rice, etc.

The Committee further noted that the introduction of the Integrated Tax Administration System [ITAS] platform has enabled taxpayers to generate PRN and make payments to any nearby bank. This system was noted to have improved compliance and drastically minimised collusion that used to happen between taxpayers and NRA staff.

Notwithstanding the successes recorded by the Authority, it was however observed that Management encountered a slew of challenges, such as relatively low compliance in filing and payment of taxes, many exceptions, collapse of international prices of minerals, especially diamonds, non-operation of some mining companies, non-compliance of SOEs like EDSA and EGTC, delay in payment of parastatal dividends and a host of others.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends that:

- ❖ ***the Authority's 2025 allocation to the tune of NLe 425,647,000 is approved and the Authority continues to exert pressure on those who are still in tax arrears to settle their liabilities;***
- ❖ ***Management should continue to enforce compliance through enforcement of the law and also explore other potential revenue sources in order to enable them exceed the 2025 revenue target.***
- ❖ ***going forward, Management should prioritise recruiting more women in the event vacancies exist, so as to narrow the existing gender gap; and***
- ❖ ***the Government and donor partners should support NRA to construct their own regional offices to save cost.***

VOTE 110-00 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, Section 40 [1] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone [Act No. 6, 1991] establishes the Office of the President. The President is the Head of State, the Supreme Executive Authority of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. In order to ensure good governance and increase the efficiency of the government, the Office of the Secretary to the President has been conducting oversight activities, supervising, monitoring and coordinating MDAs. It also has direct oversight mandate over the following institutions;

- ❖ Sierra Leone Compact Development Unit;
- ❖ Public Private Partnership Unit [PPPU];
- ❖ Sierra Leone Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative [SLEITI];
- ❖ National Investment Board [NIB]; and
- ❖ National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Centre.

For 2024 FY, the Office of the Secretary to the President submitted an original budget of **NLe 171,750,596**, but was allocated **NLe 189,586,000** by the Ministry of Finance. The Committee however observed that the Office received **NLe 174,723,000**, which was expended on local and international travels, administrative and operating cost, official reception and hospitality, joint presidential guard force, security advisor, economic and financial policy activities, etc.

For the period under review, the Committee observed that Management fully complied with its statutory obligations, but however expressed grave concern about the gender disparity because out of 315 staff, only 51 **[16.2%]** were females.

For 2025 FY, the Office of the Secretary to the President made an original budget submission of **NLe 233,202,738**, but **NLe 79,435,800** was allocated. Management disclosed that this allocation would be expended on running the affairs of the Office.

Since the Office of the Secretary to the President plays a crucial role in coordinating or organising presidential activities, such as official receptions, presidential travels, and hospitality, the Committee deemed its 2025

allocation of NLe 79,435,800 as insufficient and therefore recommends for additional funds. In order to close the current gender imbalance, the Committee also recommends that Management gives preference to women in the event the need arises for employment.

VOTE 110 -02 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, even though the Office of the Chief Minister is treated independently in the 2025 Appropriation Act, the financial reporting aspect of this Office still rests with the Office of the Secretary to the President. For 2025 FY, the Office of the Chief Minister was allocated **NLe 4,328,500**.

In view of the above, the Committee deemed this allocation to the tune of NLe 4,328,500 as adequate and therefore recommends for its approval.

412 01 NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION AUTHORITY

The National Telecommunication Authority [NaTCA], came into being through an Act of Parliament in 2022 and automatically replaced the then National Telecommunication Commission Act of 2006. The core mandates of the Authority are:

- ❖ license and regulate ICT service providers in Sierra Leone;
- ❖ plan, manage and assign the national frequency spectrum;
- ❖ manage the national numbering plan;
- ❖ ensure fair competition and investment in the sector;
- ❖ protect the users or consumers of ICT products and services; and
- ❖ promote the progressive development of ICTs in Sierra Leone; and
- ❖ support universal access to ICT services.

In 2024 FY, the Authority's budget submission was **NLe 455,519.86**, but **NLe 303,164.80** was approved by the Ministry of Finance. The Committee observed that the Authority did not receive a cent from the Ministry of Finance. However, NatCA was

noted as one of the prolific revenue generating institutions from various sources, such as International Gateway, TV licenses, ship station, FM, fines, valued added services, call signs, microwave link, Third and Fourth Generation [3G&4G] licenses, Global System for Mobile Communication license, etc.

In 2023 and 2024 FYs, the Authority's revenue targets were **NLe113, 879,970** and **NLe 341,639,900** respectively. However, it was uncovered that in 2023, the Authority collected **NLe 41,400,928.66** and **NLe 252,339,718.60** in 2024, registering **NLe 210,938,789.66 [83.6%]** increase. Despite the marginal increase in revenue collection in 2024, the Authority still fell short of **16.4%** of its target, which was attributed to the discontinuation of business operations by some service providers, failure to pay license fees, illegal operations by some service providers, etc.

The Director General further disclosed that Management is working very hard to address certain challenges, such as lack of monitoring equipment, fraud and slow response in terms of debt payments, inadequate staff training, inadequate office space, insufficient vehicles, etc. He further stated that the Authority intended to expand its revenue source base data, mobile money services, increment in regulatory and license fees, fines, etc.

Examining the revenue sharing ratio between the Authority, and the GoSL and Universal Access Development Fund [UADF], the Committee observed that the Act makes provision for NatCA to retain **88%**, while **10%** and **2%** should be transferred to the GoSL and UADF respectively, but this has not been implemented with regard International Gateway and regulatory for on-net, off-net and data. However, Management would implement this provision in the Act going forward.

While noting compliance with regard their statutory obligations for 2024 FY, the Committee uncovered that the Authority is indebted to the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank for a building project the sum of **NLe 61,507,498** and an accrued amount of **NLe 16,467,900**. The Committee further noted that in 2023 FY, the Authority owed

withholding tax of **NLe 3,279,946**; NASSIT of **NLe 5,974,083** and **NLe 12,238,327** PAYE. According to the Director General, a payment plan had been initiated with NASSIT and NRA for settlement of these liabilities.

Considering the Authority's status in terms of gender, the Committee observed that out of a total of 157 staff, 52 were females, registering **33.1%**. The Committee expressed satisfaction about Management's display of gender sensitivity, revealing that if other institutions could take page from NatCA, lots of women would have gained employment.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee recommends the following:

- ❖ ***the Authority's 2025 allocation to the tune of NLe 322,950,800 is considered adequate and therefore recommends its approval;***
- ❖ ***Management should enforce compliance through enforcement of the law against defaulters and also explore other revenue sources that will maximise revenue collection, such as data subscription, mobile money services, adjustment in regulatory licenses fees, penalties for failing to pay within 30 days, etc.; and***
- ❖ ***Management should continue to prioritise women in the employment process as provided in the 2022 Act.***

112 -03 SIERRA LEONE COMPACT DEVELOPMENT UNIT [SLCDU]

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, in 2020, the Millennium Challenge Corporation [MCC] Board of Directors selected Sierra Leone to develop a Compact after passing the MCC scorecard for two consecutive years [2019 and 2020]. The Government of Sierra Leone subsequently established the Sierra Leone Compact Development Unit [SLCDU] in 2021 within the Office of the Vice President to develop the Compact in close collaboration with the MCC.

In 2024 FY, the Unit submitted a budget of **NLe 4,082,000** to the Ministry of Finance, but was allocated **NLe 700,000**. It was however noted that the Unit received additional funds to the tune of **NLe 10,819,555.79** from MCC. The National Coordinator disclosed that these amounts were spent on administrative cost and MCC scorecard related activities. It was however uncovered that the Unit had a bank balance of **NLe 5,060,215.75** as at September, 2024, which is meant to support consultancy services.

For 2025 FY, the Unit submitted an original budget of **NLe 3,443,000** to the Ministry of Finance, but was allocated **NLe 1,584,300**.

For the period under review, the Committee observed that Management fully complied with its statutory obligations, but however expressed serious concern about the gender insensitivity of Management, noting that out of a total of 14 staff, only 2 are females, representing **14.3%**.

The Committee considered the Unit's 2025 allocation of NLe 1,584,300 as inadequate and therefore recommends for additional funds. In order to close the current gender imbalance, the Committee recommends that Management gives preference to women in the event the need arises for employment.

[VOTE 129 - 01] MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, the Ministry of Finance in Sierra Leone is an important ministerial department of the Government of Sierra Leone, and is charged with managing the revenue and finances of the Sierra Leone government. The Ministry is responsible to implement the economic policies of the Government.

In 2024 FY, the Ministry submitted a budget of **NLe 596,518,400**, but was allocated **NLe 190,374,449**, indicating **68.1%** decrease of the original budget submission. It

was observed that the same amount was received and expended on the following key priority areas:

- ❖ administrative costs;
- ❖ facilitate the revision of excise tax 1982;
- ❖ continue with the conduct of follow-up actions to track the implementation of audit recommendations and escalate issues of non-compliance;
- ❖ reconstitute 4 additional audit committee in MDAs and 3 in local councils;
- ❖ assess long term viability of poorly performing SOEs and help develop options for restructuring;
- ❖ assess long term viability of poorly performing SOEs and help develop options for restructuring;
- ❖ produce quarterly, semi quarterly and annual economic reports and bulletins;
- ❖ continue to facilitate the achievement of all structural benchmarks and other budget support triggers;
- ❖ establish an on and off-site economic research resource centre; and
- ❖ conduct a nationwide economic prospect survey and hold quarterly macro-economic fiscal workshops to guide macro projections.

According to the Financial Secretary, the decrease would affect the payment of international subscriptions for MDAs to international organisations, hosting vital international and local events, payment for ICT systems for processing of MDAs' allocations and financial reporting, operational costs of the Ministry's support to NRA for revenue generation, overseas travels, etc.

For the period under review, the Committee uncovered that Management complied with its statutory obligations, but however expressed satisfaction about their gender consideration, stating that out of a total of 622 staff, 186 were females, indicating **29.9%** of women's representation.

For 2025 FY, the Ministry of Finance was allocated **NLe 137,301,100**, out of an original budget of **NLe 506,646,900**. The FS disclosed that the decrease would

impede the smooth implementation of key priority areas, including payment of international subscriptions for MDAs, payment for ICT systems and support to NRA for revenue mobilisation.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends that the Ministry's 2025 allocation of NLe 137,301,100 be approved, while considering supplementary budgetary provision to enable them address certain areas, such as payment of international subscriptions for MDAs, provide support to NRA for revenue mobilisation, address mobility and office space challenges, etc.

112-4 SIERRA LEONE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE [SLEITI]

In 2008, Sierra Leone became a member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. This is a global standard with an international multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to promote natural resource transparency and accountability through the disclosure of government and company information. The objectives of SLEITI are:

- ❖ to implement the 2023 SLEITI standards;
- ❖ to enact the SLEITI Act to give it more legal mandate;
- ❖ to promote public disclosure of contracts and concessions bearing relationship with the extraction mineral resources, etc.

In 2024 FY, this Office submitted an original budget of **NLe 873,200**, but was allocated **NLe 664,000**. The Committee however learnt that the Office received **NLe 571,036.31** from the Ministry of Finance. This was said to have been utilised on administrative costs, local and international travels, etc. The Committee noted that the Office experienced challenges like mobility, inadequate funding and understaffing.

For the period under review, the Committee found that Management complied with all statutory obligations. It was also discovered that out of a total of 12 staff, 5 were females, revealing **41.7%** of women's representation.

For 2025 FY, the Office's original budget submission was **NLe 2,876,000**, but was allocated **NLe 2,500,000**, registering a slight decrease of **NLe 376,000**.

In that regard, the Committee deemed the Office's 2025 allocation of NLe 2,500,000 as adequate and therefore recommends its approval. The Committee also urges Management to continue to employ more women in the event the need for recruitment arises.

VOTE 319 - 1 MINISTRY OF GENDER AND CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs was created in 2019 as the national machinery for the promotion of gender equality, women's empowerment, children's rights, protection and wellbeing. The establishment of the Ministry was as a result of a split of the then Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs. The mission of this Ministry is to promote women and children's rights, and dignity through the development and review of laws, policies and other interventions that relate to the promotion of gender equality, women's rights and child welfare.

In 2024 FY, the Ministry's original budget submission was **NLe 10,450,400**, but allocated **NLe 4,377,671.18** by the Ministry of Finance. This allocation was spent on priority areas, including promoting sexual reproductive health, administrative expenses, consultation on Child Right Act, district consultation on the amendment of the Child Right Act, etc.

During the course of implementing the 2024 allocation, the Committee uncovered that the Ministry encountered some challenges, such as inadequate and late release of funds, inadequate logistics, understaffing, etc.

For the period under review, the Committee found that the Ministry complied with all statutory obligations. It was also discovered that out of a total of 72 staff, 29 were females, representing **40.2%** of women. This is indicative of the fact that the Ministry is in compliance with the GEWE Act of 2022.

For 2025 FY, the Ministry's submitted an original budget of **NLe 4,594,800** to the Ministry of Finance, but **NLe 3,734,400** was allocated, indicating a decrease of **18.7%**.

The Committee considered the Ministry's 2025 allocation of NLe 3,734,400 as adequate and therefore recommends for its approval. The Committee encourages Management to ensure that women are given the opportunity to showcase their skills.

VOTE 112 -5 NATIONAL EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE MECHANISM COORDINATING CENTRE

The Republic of Sierra Leone is a signatory to the treaty which established the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS], signed on 28th May, 1975 in Lagos and revised on 24th July, 1993 in Cotonou. Chapter IV of the 1999 Protocol provides the framework for the establishment of a sub-regional peace and security system [Early Warning System]. The mandate of this Centre is to collect, collate, and analyse data or information provided by public institutions, Civil Society Organisations, the ECOWAS Early Warning Centres or any other legitimate information sources for its strategic objective.

In 2024 FY, the Centre made an original budget submission of **NLe 15,890,400** to the Ministry of Finance, but was allocated **NLe 1,250,000**. It was however noted that the Centre received **NLe 1,868,403.51**, registering a huge decrease of the Centre's original budget submission. This was expended on operational costs, generation of early warning on security and criminal issues nationwide, provision of early warning on environmental health, engagement on good governance and human rights issues, legal framework, etc. According to the Vote Controller, the decrease affected the payment of utility bills, collection of relevant data, research activities, project implementation, general administration, etc.

The Committee observed that inadequate allocation, late release of funds, capacity building of staff, limited accessibility to data and lack of mobility were major challenges that impeded the smooth implementation of the Centre's planned activities.

The Committee found that the Centre fully complied with the payment of statutory obligations. It was also discovered that out of a total of 19 staff, 9 were females, representing **50%** of women. This shows that the Centre is in compliance with the GEWE Act of 2022.

For 2025 FY, the Centre's original budget submission was **NLe 17,000,000**, but was allocated **NLe 6,894,900** by the Ministry of Finance. According to the Vote Controller, the decrease would undermine the achievement of the Centre's key deliverables, such as payment of utility bills, collection of relevant data, research activities, project implementation, general administration, generation of early warning on security and criminal issues, provision of early warning on environmental health and food security, etc.

In view of the above observations, the Committee viewed the Centre's 2025 allocation of NLe 6,894,900 as adequate and therefore recommends for its approval. The Committee also urges Management to ensure that the Centre's activities and mandate are made known to the public through rigorous sensitisation.

[VOTE 128 01] MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Mr Chairman, Hon. Members, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation is the principal advisory agency of Government on matters relating to the formulation and implementation of the foreign policy objectives of the Country in accordance with the generality of Section 10 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone [Act. No 6 of 1991] and in consistent with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic as well as Consular Relations.

The mandate of this Ministry includes the promotion of Sierra Leone's interest, her voice, legitimacy and representation at both bilateral and multilateral levels.

In 2024 FY, the Ministry presented a Budget of **NLe 304,760,000** to the Ministry of Finance. Nonetheless, **NLe 182,520,800** was allocated. The Ministry's expenditure matrix revealed that **NLe 124,563,369.30** was received and expended on key priority areas, including administrative cost, facilitate overseas travels to attend conferences, posting and recall of Foreign Service officers, appointments and recall of ambassadors, staff capacity building, vehicles for foreign missions, service to diplomatic consular officers and foreign delegations, etc.

The Committee further noted that the Ministry collected revenue totalling **NLe 458,673.29** from various sources, such as hall rental of the Foreign Service Academy, canteen rental, consular fees from the embassies and high commissions. The Vote Controller disclosed that there was no revenue target and the revenue raised through the Foreign Service Academy was used for the operations of the Academy, while revenue collected through foreign missions was transferred to the consolidated revenue fund.

The Committee noted that the Ministry fully complied with its statutory obligations. The Committee also discovered that out of a total of 200 staff, 88 were females, representing **44%** of women. This shows that the Ministry is in compliance with the GEWE Act of 2022.

The Committee uncovered that untimely release of funds, frail coordination among MDAs, exchange rate instability and failure to remit other charges for overseas missions by the Ministry of Finance affected the Ministry's operations.

For 2025 FY, the Ministry's original budget submission was **NLe 324,100,000**, but was allocated **NLe 83,986,000**, indicating **74.1%** decrease. The Finance Director informed the Committee that the decrease would affect overseas travels, posting and recall of Foreign Service officers, other charges, etc.

With those observations, and considering the fact that the Ministry facilitates overseas travels for international conferences, posting and recall of Foreign Service officers, appointments and recall of ambassadors, the Committee considered the Ministry's 2025 allocation of NLe 83,986,000 as inadequate and therefore recommends for the provision of additional funds.

CONCLUSION

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks and appreciation to Members of Sub-Committee 11 for their cooperation and teamwork as they critically perused the budgets of MDAs under their purview. The Committee's thanks and appreciation go to Secretariat and all those who provided technical support.

Pursuant to Section 111, Sub-section [3a] and **S.Os** 66[1&2], the Committee Group 11 unanimously recommends that the entire Vote Heads, including the Sub-Heads, Embassies and Foreign Missions unallocated heads, including the long title of the Bill and that the recommendations contained therein as mentioned below be approved:

Table 1: MDAs Account Heads and their Allocations for 2025

| Vote | Div. | Vote Description/MDA | Amount [NLe] |
|-------------|-------------|---|---------------------|
| 139 | 1 | National Commission for Privatisation [NCP] | 2,602,800 |
| 112 | 1 | Office of the vice President | 15,290,300 |
| 112 | 02 | Scaling Up Nutrition | 5.000.000 |
| 107 | 1 | Freetown City Council [FCC] | 23,983,116 |
| 107 | 03 | Kenema City Council | 6,921,317 |
| 130 | 1 | National Revenue Authority [NRA] | 425,647,000 |
| 110 | 01 | Office of the Secretary to President | 79,435,800 |
| 110 | 02 | Office of the Chief of Staff | 4,328,500. |

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| 412 | 1 | National Telecommunication Authority [NaTCA] | 322,950,800 |
| 112 | 3 | Millennium Challenge Compact Secretariat | 1,584,300 |
| 129 | 1 | Ministry of Finance | 137,301,100 |
| | | | |
| 112 | 4 | S/L Extractive Industries, Transparency Initiative Secretariat | 2,500,000 |
| 319 | 1 | Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs | 3,734,400 |
| 112 | 5 | National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Centre | 6,894,900 |
| 128 | 01 | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation | 83,986,000 |
| 101 | 00 | Charged Emoluments | See note One |
| 128 | 02 | High Commission, London | 6,674,500 |
| 128 | 03 | U.N Delegation | 11,916,500 |
| 128 | 04 | High Commission, Abuja | 5,717,600 |
| 128 | 05 | Embassy Monrovia | 5,256,800 |
| 128 | 06 | Embassy Conakry | 5,048,000 |
| 128 | 07 | Embassy Washington | 6,056,800 |
| 128 | 08 | Embassy Moscow | 5,578,400 |
| 128 | 09 | Embassy Addis Ababa | 5,917,600 |
| 128 | 10 | Embassy Beijing | 5,778,400 |
| 128 | 11 | High Commission, Banjul | 4,748,000 |
| 128 | 12 | Embassy , Brussels | 5,517,600 |
| 128 | 13 | Embassy, Riyadh | 5,778,400 |
| 128 | 14 | Embassy, Berlin | 5,841,000 |
| 128 | 15 | Embassy, Tehran | 5,502,400 |
| 128 | 16 | High Commission, Accra | 5,656,800 |

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| 128 | 17 | Embassy, Cairo | 5,778,400 |
| 128 | 18 | Embassy, Dakar | 5,363,200 |
| 128 | 19 | Embassy, Nairobi | 5,378,400 |
| 128 | 20 | Embassy, Dubai | 5,369,300 |
| 128 | 21 | Sierra Leone Kuwait | 5,878,400 |
| 128 | 22 | Embassy, Mission, Geneva | 5,556,800 |
| 128 | 23 | Embassy, Seoul | 5,263,200 |
| 128 | 24 | Embassy, Ankara | 5,791,000 |
| 128 | 25 | Embassy, Rabat | 4,664,500 |
| 128 | 26 | Embassy, Algiers | 3,000,000 |
| 128 | 27 | S/L Mission, Islamic Military Counter Terrorism, Saudi Arabia | 3,158,100 |
| 128 | 28 | Embassy, Doha | 3,000,000 |
| 128 | 29 | UNESCO Representation | 2,144,300 |
| 300 | 02 | Grants to Tertiary Institutions | 136,989,000 |
| 341 | 01 | Pensions Gratuities and Retirement Benefit [See Note One] | See Note 1 |
| 342 | 01 | Contribution to Social Security [See Note two] | See note 2 |
| 430 | 01 | Cargo Tracking Fees Transfers to Sierra Leone Ports Authority | 255,698,700 |
| 509 | 01 | Domestic Suppliers Arrears | 259,583,500 |
| 601 | 01 | Public Debt Charges | 9,317,961,800 |
| 610 | 01 | Contingency Fund [S36 PFM Act, 2016] | 15,000,000 |
| 611 | 01 | Special Warrants of the President [38 PFM Act, 2016] | 10,000,000 |
| 612 | 01 | Unallocated Head of Expenditures [S39 PFM] | 10,000,000 |

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| | | Act, 2016] | |
| 701 | 01 | Local Government Administration Grants | 29,163,800 |
| 701 | 02 | Sensitisation on Fire Prevention Services | 4,006,300 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Education Services | 161,361,300 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Youth and Sports Services | 9,686,400 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Solid Waste Management Serv. | 12,830,200 |
| 701 | 02 | Environment and Forestry | 7,709,300 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Monthly Cleaning Services | 10,188,000 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Agriculture and Food Security Services | 47,093,900 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Rural Water Service | 7,592,100 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs Services | 10,777,400 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Functions – Health Care Services | 38,747,200 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Fisheries and Marine Resources | 4,947,900 |
| Various | | Salaries and Wages [Notes 1 and 2] | 7,626,683,100 |
| Various | | Capital Transfers- Recapitalisation | 1,258,785,600 |
| Various | | Development Activities -Feed Salone | 747,233,700 |
| Various | | Development Activities- Human Capital Development | 208,158,900 |
| Various | | Development Activities- Youth Empowerment | 19,600,000 |
| Various | | Development Activities- Infrastructure Technology and Innovation | 776,344,200 |
| Various | | Development Activities- Revamping the Public Service Administration | 5,000,000 |

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| Various | | Development Activities- Enablers to the Five Game Charges | 437,662,800 |
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THE CHAIRMAN: There are no adverse findings, right?

HON. MOSES EDWIN: No, I have one.

THE CHAIRMAN: You should have more than one because the Contingency Fund is provided for by the Law; the Warrant of the President is provided for by Law; the Unallocated Budget is provided for by law, so they do not need to be a Vote Head.

HON. MOSES EDWIN: Mr Chairman, for General Observation and Findings, this one is specific to Gender Disparity in the employment process of the MDAs. Following the examination of Records and the Committee engagement with Management, it was found that MDAs did not adequately take into account women in the employment process. The Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Act which this House enacted into Law in 2022 is being undermined by this action.

Recommendations:

With that been noted, the Committee recommends that the Parliamentary Committee on Gender collaborates with MDAs with a view to ensuring that women are given full consideration for any future employment.

Conclusion:

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks and appreciation to Members of Sub-Committee **No.11** for their cooperation and team work as they critically perused the Budget of MDAs under their purview. The Committee's thanks and appreciation goes to secretariat and all those who provided technical support. Pursuance to Section **111** Sub-Section **3[a]**, and **S.Os** 66, [1&2],

the Committee Group 11 unanimously recommends that the entire Vote Heads, including the Sub-Heads, Embassies and Foreign Missions as mentioned below be approved as per schedule.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank the Honourable Member; he is one of the luckiest new Members of this Sixth Parliament to be a Chairman of a Committee. He is the de-facto Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, no I will not take anything, Madam Minister, go ahead.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Mr Chairman, I would like to draw your attention to an error in this Paper; I see under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the amount **Le83MIn**. That amount is only for the Office of the Permanent Secretary. So the correct amount should have been; **NLe235MIn**, 320,000.

THE CHAIRMAN: You would amend it as well. So like we agreed, you would name the Ministry, including the Missions and you include the correct amount.

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

able 1: MDAs Account Heads and their Allocations for 2025

| Vote | Div. | Vote Description/MDA | Amount [NLe] |
|-------------|-------------|---|---------------------|
| 139 | 1 | National Commission for Privatisation [NCP] | 2,602,800 |
| 122 | 1 | Office of the vice President | 15,290,300 |
| 122 | 02 | Scaling Up Nutrition | 5,000,000 |
| 107 | 1 | Freetown City Council [FCC] | 23,983,116 |
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| 112 | 3 | Millennium Challenge Compact Secretariat | 1,584,300 |
| 129 | 1 | Ministry of Finance | 137,301,100 |
| | | | |
| 112 | 4 | S/L Extractive Industries, Transparency Initiative Secretariat | 2,500,000 |
| 319 | 1 | Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs | 3,734,400 |
| 112 | 5 | National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Centre | 6,894,900 |
| 128 | 01 | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation | 83,986,000 |
| 300 | 02 | Grants to Tertiary Institutions | 136,989,000 |
| 341 | 01 | Pensions Gratuities and Retirement Benefit [See Note One] | See Note 1 |
| 342 | 01 | Contribution to Social Security [See Note two] | See note 2 |
| 430 | 01 | Cargo Tracking Fees Transfers to Sierra Leone Ports Authority | 255,698,700 |
| 509 | 01 | Domestic Suppliers Arrears | 259,583,500 |
| 601 | 01 | Public Debt Charges | 9,317,961,800 |
| 610 | 01 | Contingency Fund [S36 PFM Act, 2016] | 15,000,000 |
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| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Education Services | 161,361,300 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Youth and Sports Services | 9,686,400 |
| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Solid Waste Management Serv. | 12,830,200 |
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| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Monthly Cleaning Services | 10,188,000 |
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| 701 | 02 | Devolved Function- Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs Services | 10,777,400 |
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| Various | | Development Activities- Revamping the Public Service Administration | 5,000,000 |
| Various | | Development Activities- Enablers to the Five | 437,662,800 |

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| | | Game Charges | |
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[QUESTION PROPOSED, PUT AND AGREED TO]

[Clause 1 –to 5 form part of the Bill]

[THE HOUSE RESUMED]

THE SPEAKER: Madam Minister, you are relieved. So tomorrow Morning you would come, and you would move the Motion for the adoption of the Clauses and then we proceed to the Third Reading and then we pass the Appropriation Bill. I am not sure we have any announcement, right?

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Speaker adjourned the House to Friday 20th December, 2024 at 10am prompt.

The House rose at 8:35pm