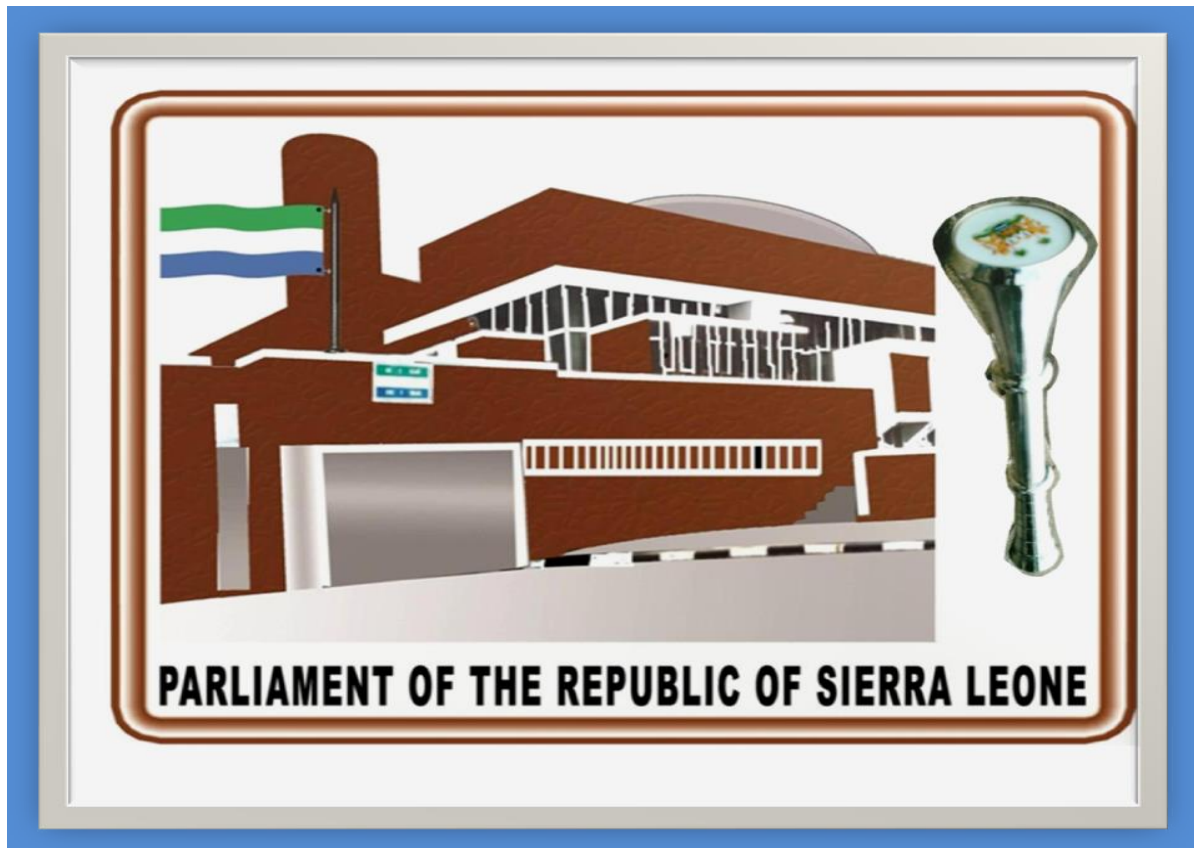


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OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

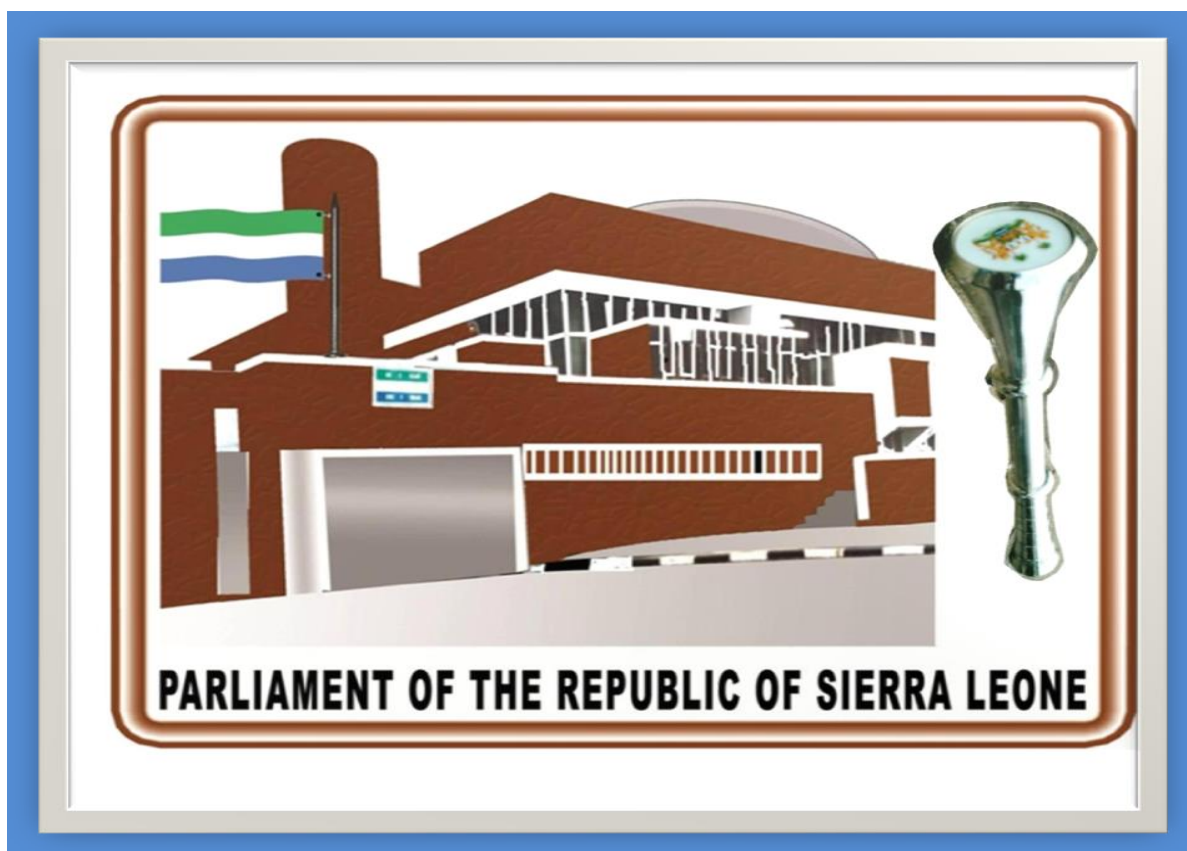
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 23RD MAY, 2024

SESSION – 2023/2024



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: I

NUMBER: 50

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 Thursday, 23rd May 2024.

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V. MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE

PUBLIC SERVICE :

PROPOSER: **MATHEW S. NYUMA**

SECONDER: **BASHIRU SILIKIE**



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

Thursday, 23rd May, 2024.

1. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Mr Edward Lebbie, read the Prayers]

[The House met at 10:31a.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 TUESDAY 7TH MAY, 2024.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday 7th May, 2024. Pages 1 to 4? Page 5?

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY CONTEH: Mr Speaker, page 5, paragraph [3]; the spelling of Bonthe District: it was seconded by Fatmata Bintu Bockarie from Bonthe District, the spelling of Bonthe District was wrong.

THE SPEAKER: Clerk, please take note.

HON. ABDUL S. MARRAY CONTEH: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Can someone please move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings held on Tuesday the 7th May 2024?

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

THE SPEAKER: Any Secunder?

HON. MOMOH BOCKARIE: I so second, Mr Speaker.

Question Proposed, Put And Agreed To.

[Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday 7th May 2024, has been adopted as amended].

THE SPEAKER: Proceed.

III. SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE 1991 CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in conformity with the Certificates of Elections received from the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone, I hereby declare that the following had been duly elected as Members of Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone, pursuant to Section [83] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. [6] of 1991; in tandem with Standing Order [1] Paragraph [a] of the Rules of Procedures of the Parliament of Sierra Leone:

[I] Honourable Moses Andrew Edwin

Honourable Edwin, can you please stand for all to see? *[Applause]*

[II] PC Alamean Kanneh, from Kenema District *[Applause]*

[III] PC Saffa Moyna Tamu *[Applause]*

I will therefore call upon the Clerk of Parliament, to administer the Oath of Office as established in the Third Schedule of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. [6] of 1991. Proceed.

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL *[Mrs Finda F. Fraser,]*: Honourable Members, I invite the Leadership of the House to join me in administering the Oath of Office. I hereby call upon the newly elected Members of Parliament:

[I] Honourable Moses Andrew Edwin, from Bonthe District.

[II] PC Alamean Kanneh, from Kenema District.

[III] PC Saffa Moyna Tamu, from Pujehun District; to administer the Oath of Office, as established in the Third Schedule of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, Act No. [6] of 1991.

When I say I, you say I and pronounce your full names and repeat these words after me:

I,.....; having been elected a Member of Parliament do hereby in the name of God swear, that I would bear true faith and allegiance to the Republic of Sierra Leone as by Law established; that I would uphold and defend the Constitution of Sierra Leone, and that I would faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of a Member of Parliament. So help me God.

I hereby call upon the newly elected Members of Parliament, to append their signatures on the Oath Book:

[I] Honourable Moses Andrew Edwin; I present the newly elected Member of Parliament your package and in this package, we have the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, the Parliamentary Act, 2023; the Standing Orders and also the Parliamentary Prayers. The Director of Legislative Services would usher you to your seat, Sir.

[II] I would now call on PC Alamean Kanneh, to sign the Oath Book: Honourable PC, this is your package; it contains the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, the Standing Orders, the Parliamentary Act, 2023 and also the Parliamentary Prayers. The Director of Legislative Services would usher you to your seat, Sir.

[III] I would now call on PC Saffa Moyna Tamu, to sign the Oath Book: Honourable PC Saffa Moyna Tamu, this is your package; it contains the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, it also contains the Standing Orders and the Parliamentary Prayers, and also it contains the Parliamentary Act, 2023. The Director of Legislative Services would usher you to your seat.

THE SPEAKER: On behalf of Parliament, let me take this opportunity to congratulate: Honourable Moses Andrew Edwin *[Applause]*, Honourable PC Alamean Kanneh *[Applause]*, and Honourable PC Saffa Moyna Tamu *[Applause]*. We congratulate you on your elections to this House, and we wish you the best for the Republic of Sierra Leone. As a matter of fact, I know you have been given a copy of the Constitution of Sierra Leone, the Standing Orders and of course, the Parliamentary Act. The Constitution and the Standing Orders are the Bibles of Parliamentary Procedures; the Parliamentary Act deals entirely with the operations of Parliament, so those three books are extremely important to you, make the best use of them. Of course I have no doubt in my mind that you are going to contribute to the development of this nation through your activities in this House. Once more, I congratulate you on behalf of Parliament.

Of course, Honourable Edwin, you can take the seat previously occupied by Honourable Bernadette Wuyatta Songa, is that the seat you are occupying now? And the two Paramount Chiefs, occupy the vacant seats with your colleagues at the back. At this stage, let me take this opportunity to welcome some eminent personalities we have here today: they are very good friends of Sierra Leone and it is necessary that when they come to a House like this, we recognise their presence. Let me start by making reference to Brig. Gen. Alhassan Karima *[Applause]*. Brig. Gen. Alhassan Karima is the Director of Co-ordination, Armed Forces Command and Staff College of Nigeria *[Applause]*. We also have with us Navy Captain Ibrahim Gwaka *[Applause]*, he is the

team Coordinator; we have Professor Antafom Abraham Alexander *[Applause]* and Professor Isaac O. Bachu *[Applause]*. You are all heartily welcome to the House of Parliament. Let me also refer to Norman Sanchez Aquala; Norma Sanchez Aquala is a Cuban Ambassador to Sierra Leone *[Applause]*. You are welcome to the House of Parliament. Let me also refer to, of course, we have our brother here, Brig. General A.S. Bockarie *[Applause]*. Brig. General A.S. Bockarie is the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff – Training and Induction, Ministry of Defence, you are welcome. We also have with us of course the Chairman, Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone [ECSL] Mr Konneh here; we have the Deputy Commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission [ACC], Mr Augustine Foday-Ngobie; we also have Mr Kabineh Kallon, former Minister of Transport; you are all welcome. Let me also call on Sovene Howgay, do not mind my pronunciation *[Laughing]*; you are all welcome – they are friends of Sierra Leone, they work at the Norwegian Mercy Ship *[Applause]*. She, together with Mapendo Dugberreh *[Applause]*. Both of them are friends of Sierra Leone, and they have done a whole lot in helping the sick people of Sierra Leone; thank you very much for your service. Let me at this stage call on all the members of the Armed Forces Training Centre. We have them in the Gallery there; can you please stand for the Members of Parliament to see you *[Applause]*? They are all from Nigeria, they are our friends, we do not take you for granted, Sierra Leone would always be proud of Nigeria; we know exactly what you did in redeeming this nation, we are proud of you and you are always welcome to come to the House of Parliament *[Applause]*. Let me also call on Mr Momoh Jah Stevens from the United States SLPP, Momoh Jah Stevens are you here? Momoh Jah, okay I think he went out... oh yes, you are welcome; you are welcome to the House of Parliament. Yes, proceed.

IV. PAPERS LAID

[A] CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE-*[Honourable Ibrahim Tawa Conteh]*

HON. IBRAHIM T. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, pursuant to Sub-section [7], Section 119 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act **No. 6** of 1991, Sub-section [2] Paragraph [a & b] of Section 11 of the Audit Service Act, 2014, and **S.O** 18,

I beg to lay on the Table of this House two [2] Performance Audit Reports from the Audit Service of Sierra Leone on the audit of the distribution of water supply in the Western Area by the Guma Valley Water Company, and Performance Audit on the utilization and monitoring of Tied Grant by the Freetown City Council *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Chairman, PAC and Deputy Speaker of the Republic of Sierra Leone Parliament, thank you. Let me also recognise the presence of the Acting Auditor-General, Mr Aziz, I think he is here; you are welcome Sir.

At this stage, this House is stood down for ten [10] minutes; I want to see Leaders on both sides of the aisle in my Chambers.

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

PROPOSER: **HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA**

SECONDER: **HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE**

FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

FIFTEENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE ON PARLIAMENTARY VETTING OF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service that is charged with the responsibility of vetting Presidential nominees, met on Wednesday, 24th April and Thursday 9th May, 2024 to interview Presidential Nominees for the following reappointments:

- i. Deputy Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)
- ii. Electoral Commissioner, Southern Region and;
- iii. Chairman, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports and Harbor Authority (SLPHA)

2. PROCEDURE

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

3. SEVENTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH APRIL, 2024.

The Committee interviewed the under-mentioned nominee on oath:

- i. **Mr. Augustine Foday-Ngobie, -Proposed Deputy Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Mr Augustine Foday-Ngobie, is a certified Fraud examiner with several certificates to his credit. His participation in so many training programmes and seminars on corruption has brought him huge experience in corruption related matters, and this has enabled him to contribute immensely to the fight against corruption since his appointment as Deputy Commissioner in 2019.

He holds a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management from Njala University and has participated in many professional training programmes, including High Level Leadership and Management for heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies of Commonwealth Africa – (Mauritius 2023) that encompassed the following core disciplines:

- Training in prevention and combating corruption (Egypt 2023)
- Strategic management of Anti-Corruption (Malasia 2022)
- Managing exhibits and proceeds of crime (Botswana 2016/2017)
- Maritime security and law enforcement (United States of America)
- Money laundering and financial crimes (2001)

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee reaffirms all earlier commendations bestowed on this nominee during the Fifth Parliament for his exemplary leadership in promoting good governance through fighting corruption.

In his submission to the Committee bordering on extortion of money from parents through admission by School authorities, frequent outages of Power from the main national electricity grids in spite of the serious injection of national and donor budgets into the power sector, neutrality and independence of the ACC; and challenges amongst others, the erudite ACC boss said *'I acknowledge that there are huge challenges in fighting corruption but the successes registered under our leadership were borne out of collective efforts and total independence of the Commission. For the electricity, we have worked in recent times with the energy sector to retrieve huge back log of debts, especially from private commercial institutions. The rampant corruption at the school level is being closely monitored and so the ACC, once adduced with the relevant evidence, will work with the Ministry of Education to enforce the laws. I therefore implore everyone to help the ACC with relevant information to spring us into action'*

On the Challenges, the erudite professional said for the past 20years ACC registered tremendous successes because of its professional staff outputs and the strength of its laws. He noted that though the ACC enforcement laws were strongest, the institution had no control over the courts. *'We have no control over the courts to jail, invoke custodial sentences as all these lie within the judiciary'*, he concluded.

4 EIGHTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON THURSDAY, 9TH MAY, 2024

ii. **Hon. Manso Dumbuya**, -*Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, Serra Leone Ports and Harbor Authority (SLPHA)*

Honourable Manso Dumbuya is a renowned statesman, a seasoned politician that served diligently as Member of Parliament from the Tonko Limba, Kambia District after the civil war. His humble and patriotic character to serve country first has earned him

distinguished national recognitions as Member of the Order of the Rokel [OOR, 2021] and as Justice of the Peace [JP-2021]]. He heads the Western Area SLPP administrative wing and has inspired a good number of youths into the current political space.

His reappointment to the Board of Directors' Chairmanship of the Ports and Harbor Authority was hailed by Members across party line in relation to handling of past fluid labour issues with the administration.

In response to the Committee on escalating costs of consumer goods, he said the Ports Authority do not determine prices but would collaborate with colleagues Board Members to help the administration in future endeavors as the Port Act requires.

iii. Mr. Edmond Sylvester Alpha, -*Proposed Electoral Commissioner, Southern Region*

Mr Edmond Sylvester Alpha is an educationalist with proven managerial and leadership skills. He joined the National Electoral Commission in 2005 as District Electoral Officer, Tonkolili District. He rose through the ranks to the position of Director of Training and Electoral Education – [2010-2019], and then to the current level where he had served since 2019 - to 9th April, 2024.

He is a seasoned media expert with high profile skills in teaching and promoting democratic process.

His response to the Committee as a long serving technocrat of the institution seeking reappointment was thwarted by a division of the Committee regarding the Constitutional Provision of Section 32[3] of the 1991 Constitution.

5. 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:

- i. Mr Augustine Foday-Ngobie, Proposed Deputy Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission[ACC]

- ii. Hon. Manso Dumbuya, Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, Serra Leone Ports and Harbor Authority [SLPHA]
- iii. Mr. Edmond Sylvester Alpha, Proposed Electoral Commissioner, Southern Region

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the **Fifteenth Report** reflects the **unanimous** view of the Committee on nominees I & II **except** for nominee III [Mr Edmond Sylvester Alpha, Proposed Electoral Commissioner, Southern Region] who was approved by **majority** of the ruling Sierra Leone People Party [SLPP] but was opposed by the All Peoples Congress Party [APC] on alleged lack of consultation of **all** political parties as expressly stated in Section 32[3] of the 1991 Constitution that reads thus:

‘The members of the Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Leaders of all registered political parties and subject to the approval of Parliament’.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the aforementioned and closed session decision as in the attached minutes, I therefore move that the **Fifteenth Report** of the 4th Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Mr Speaker, if you go through there is a division, and we normally do not read the minutes, but if you go through you can see the minutes attached as reference was made by the writer of the report; the Committee Director. If you go through you can see the division that we had for the Commissioner of Southern Region. That was why we referred to the Fifteenth Report as a unanimous decision and the one for the Commissioner, you can see the minutes attached. I just want to make that clarification.

THE SPEAKER: I can see on Page 4 that there was an opposition against one of the Nominees by the Opposition, All Peoples’ Congress.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Yes, Sir. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I therefore submit the report as read:

Signed.....

Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma [JP]

Chairman and Leader of Government Business

THE SPEAKER: Any Secunder?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I so second.

[Question proposed, put and agreed to]

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to begin by thanking His Excellency the President for presenting for us again, appointees that have been ratified by this Parliament – the Fifth Parliament. The presentation of these candidates Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, shows clearly that these appointees have performed extremely very well to be reappointed for approval by this House. Mr Speaker, had it not been the Fifth Parliament, these appointees should not be facing us because they were approved by this Parliament and they did extremely well. And the law says if you performed well, you should be reappointed. Mr Speaker, as Members of Parliament, when Appointees are brought in this House, and when we see our constituents coming to accompany and support them, I am always obliged to explain to our constituents the role we play as Members of Parliament, and the role these appointees play as part of the Executive.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these appointees are going to do the job that they were asked for at the end of the day. As Members of Parliament during election period, our people ask us **S.O 2** *'waetin you don do for you people dem?'*, with the expectation that government is giving us resources to perform development for our people. I would say to our constituents here without fear or favour in the presence of the camera, and in the presence of these appointees that we are not given a dime as Members of Parliament to take to our Constituents *[Applause]*. Our Appointees are the ones who

are supposed to do these responsibilities. That is why when they are brought here we admonish them because at the end of the day if they fail, they will be failing us. Most of the questions that are put to us at the end of the day are questions that are to be put to them and answered by the Executive Arm of Government.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is extremely very clear that before now, we Members of Parliament were responsible for primary development in our Constituencies. Before the war, Members of Parliament were responsible for primary development like building schools, building roads, building bridges, doing community centres, doing PHUs, etc. Mr Speaker after the war, the government formed the TRC, and in the TRC Report, it was recommended that power is over-centralized, and that power should be de-centralized. It was this Parliament in 2004 that enacted the Local Council Act; Local Government Act of 2004 and removed the functions of development from this Parliament to the Councils and to the Executive Arm *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is extremely very clear that our people have not been educated to understand that Members of Parliament have no development function. The people are of the strongest conviction that we, Members of Parliament, when once we are voted for, we are responsible to do development.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the turnover of Members of Parliament ever since we had the Constituency-based elections expectations have been extremely huge, and the level of turndown has been very huge, and most times for the wrong reasons. They are for the wrong reasons because it is believed **S.O 2**, *'if you nor make di road, den go vote you out'*. It is believed that if you do not construct Community Centres, you are going to be voted out. And as Members of Parliament, it is our responsible to educate our constituents to understand what we do and what the Central Government do. And because we are hiding, or because we are campaigning with the wrong messages, that is why the people are also judging us on our campaign messages.

Mr Speaker, of course for some of us who have been in this Parliament for almost twelve or thirteen years, we can be bold and brave enough to explain to our people that government is not giving us a dime, even as the Deputy Leader of Government

Business. All of us in this Parliament are on overdraft just to please our constituents. Mr Speaker, which is why the MPs said we should have one of our kinds to be seated on that chair. If you have been a Member of Parliament and you feel the pains of Members of Parliament, you should be able to educate the public.

We are under extreme pressure as Members of Parliament because the people believe we should take development to them. That is why when our constituents are here, we should educate them, we should talk to them and we should explain to them because nobody feels our pains like us, and if we do not explain our problems, nobody would explain our problems for us.

So Mr Speaker, to the Appointees, you are working for us...

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

THE SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr Leader.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. To the Appointees, if you perform, we are going to be proud, and we are going to rely on those performances to be voted for again. But if you fail, you are not just failing yourself but you will be failing us as Members of Parliament because at the end of the day, our names, our faces will be on the Ballot Papers.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with that said, let me zero in on these Appointees: I would begin with the Western Region Chairman of the great Sierra Leone Peoples' Party.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Manso Dumbuya is a household name in the Western Area and in the entirety of the Sierra Leone Peoples' Party of Sierra Leone. If the Sierra Leone Peoples' Party is in governance today, the Honourable Manso Dumbuya played an extremely pivotal role *[Applause.]* Mr Speaker, when we lost power in 2007, a lot of people did not have the confidence in even going to our Party office. The Honourable Manso Dumbuya was among the few people in the SLPP who were part of the system of Pa Kabbah that continued in Opposition. He was

continuously attending meetings of the PPLC at NEC, and he was busy galvanising support for the SLPP even when we were in Opposition.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is only because of age, but I believe that the Honourable Manso Dumbuya should have been rewarded more because of his performance *[Applause]*. Mr Speaker, we used to refer to him as **Top-up** in the Western Area because we were very sure of the South/East, and with his support in the Western Area, we believed he would just top us up so that we would win governance. And it is that belief that catapulted us in 2018 to State House. In 2012 Mr Speaker, when we lost the Elections we said we were going to Court, the Honourable Manso said in 2018 that he would contribute fully to the SLPP to come to governance instead of giving top-up, and that came into fruition, thank you very much, Honourable Manso Dumbuya *[Applause]*. You are wished well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for Mr Ngobie who is going to the ACC, you have done well; you have been around the ACC for the longest period, your performance has elevated you to be appointed and reappointed as Deputy Commissioner – you are wished well, we hope you will not disappoint His Excellency the President. He believes in you, we hope you will not disappoint this Parliament and we hope you will not disappoint the people of Sierra Leone. You are wished well, and congratulations.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am in a unique situation when addressing Mr Edmond Alpha. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have been opportune to interview Mr Alpha for the second time; Mr Alpha was my Lecturer when I went to Njala University; he started lecturing me in first year. Mr Speaker, this is what time does; he was once my Lecturer, marking my papers giving me E, F, B, A, and two years down the line, he was seated before me to determine whether he was going to secure a new job or not. Mr Speaker, that is why when you have the opportunity, treat people with the utmost respect, considering that tomorrow you may need them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when they established the National Electoral Commission, Mr Alpha was lecturing at Njala. It was a period that the Njala University needed him the most; it was a period that Njala was transitioning from a displaced

University in Freetown to Bo, and he was one of our best lecturers. When he said he was going to leave, everybody, including lecturers, Academic Staff and students were crying for his presence. He said okay, he was not going to leave in totality, and that he was going to be doing part-time and we enjoyed that opportunity when we went to Bo. He was moving from Freetown on weekends, going to lecture us in Bo. But because he wanted to devote more of his time to the National Electoral Commission, he was not able to fit in as a part-time Lecturer.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if some of us are here today and we can speak eloquently and debate on issues, Mr Edmond Alpha taught us Communication Skills; thank you very much for that sir *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was the Chairman that interviewed Mr Edmond Alpha, and we have heard the position of the Opposition. Mr Speaker, I believe, and I told my colleagues that there is no way under the dispensation of His Excellency, Rtd. Brigadier Julius Maada Bio that a Commissioner of the Electoral Commission would be appointed and the opposition accepts. They will never accept because they believe that the people who were part of NEC are responsible for their downfall, little realising it was their own performance during their governance that led to their downfall *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was in this Parliament in the Opposition, and I could still remember that we continuously reminded them that if they did not perform to the best of their ability to please Sierra Leoneans, they will be voted out. And from that side we told them that 2018, going forward, we would be on this side, and today we are here, and they are putting the blame on the Electoral Commissioners. Even if you bring an Electoral Commissioner from the United States, the fact that that Electoral Commissioner is going to be nominated by His Excellency Mr Speaker, I believe they will reject that nomination.

So Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the issues they raised are nonstarters because the Commissioner has performed to the best of his ability in the 2018 and 2023 elections *[Applause]*. So I believe we should just come here and endorse him. Mr Speaker, they also said that they were not consulted; using Section 32[3] which is

correct; they are here to oppose. If they believe they were not consulted, they should say it, and they said it during the Committee interview. Mr Speaker, I have a correspondence that is signed by Lansana Dumbuya Esq. who is the current Secretary-General of the All Peoples' Congress. Mr Speaker with your leave, let me just read...*[Interrupted]*

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order, Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable AKK.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, the Leader is a senior Member in this House, and if he is referencing a Correspondence from a political party, he cannot be reading it from a phone when other Members do not have it. Anybody else can say I have a document, so I am raising this for the sanity of the House.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you. Mr Speaker when once I read this document, I would present it to you to verify it for this House.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, I would allow the Member to read it out; make sure you give me a copy. Mr Clerk, make sure you distribute the copies to all Members of Parliament

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, let us not bother ourselves on that. We have a common forum; let him share it on the forum

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I will, I will share it.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: So, share it now because we have to do confirmation.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I am sharing it now.

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS LAMIN: Mr Speaker,

THE SPEAKER: Okay Hold on. no, no, no, Honourable Lamin, please wait *[Interruptions]*. No, hold on please, please. Honourable Deputy Leader of Government Business, have you shared it?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I have, Mr Speaker

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, can you confirm?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Yes, Mr Speaker

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I have shared it, go to the update.

HON. NENNEH LEBBIE: I have seen mine.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: What is the name of the Forum? Maybe it is shared on the SLPP forum

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: I shared it on the Parliamentary Update Forum; that is our common Forum.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: No, that is not our common forum.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: No we do not have a common forum in the Sixth Parliament

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: No, we have. Ask the Deputy Speaker, we have; we have a common forum. We discarded the previous one because staff members were in the Group.

THE SPEAKER: Okay Honourable Leader, send it to the Group.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Okay, I will send it to the Deputy Speaker who would send it to the common forum.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, then send it particularly to Honourable AKK for distribution.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Yes, please do.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, thank you very much. Yes, proceed.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, the points they are raising on the rejection of the Electoral Commissioner South is a nonstarter. Mr Speaker, I have a correspondence signed by Mr Lansana Dumbuya Esq. This Letter is dated 25th April instant [*Undertone*] thank you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, with your leave, let me give you the headings. It says: *'Your Excellency, Constitutional Review and Appointment for ECSL Commissioner, South'*. Mr Speaker, that was as the reaction to the Letter they received from the

Secretary to the President. And Mr Speaker, let me read Section 53[3] of the Constitution.

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Mr Speaker, point of observation.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Honourable Leader. Yes, proceed, Honourable Tamba Kellie.

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Mr Speaker, the Leader has offered to read a Letter, and now he is chickening out of that.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: No, no, no, I did not say I was going to read the entire Letter...

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: No, no, no, you cannot...

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: You are a Lawyer, please

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: You cannot prevaricate.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: No, I have forwarded the Letter for your perusal, please read.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members...

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, we would allow him to proceed with the debate, but he actually called in to read the Letter. You cannot deceive your people.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: No, no, no, I did not say I was going to read the entirety of the Letter, Sir. I said I have a Correspondence which I would paraphrase; I am still on tape, I have been recorded [*Undertone*] God bless you, Sir.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this clearly shows that they were consulted, and Section 53 [3] is very clear; it says, Mr Speaker with your leave, '*whereby this Constitution or under any other law the President is required to act in accordance with the advice or any person or authority, the question whether he has in any case received or acted in accordance with such advice shall not be enquired into in any court*'.

So Mr Speaker, the President consulted, and the Law does not say after consultation the President must adhere to anybody's decision.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, thankfully we have the National Chairman here who used to be the National Chairman and Leader whilst we were in Opposition. Today, we can even write a Formal Letter; there was a period they can only call us on phone, the Chairman can attest to that. They can call *'oh, Mr Chairman, we are deciding on this and that, and this person is now the Electoral Commissioner'*, and that was also consultation, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, when our colleagues said they rely on Consultation, I believe they are not sincere. This is the Sixth Parliament, and we are happy we are here, and most times I have said in this Parliament that the problem is our political parties; we are friends, we are brothers, we understand the laws and we are Law-makers. But the fact that we have Section...*[Interrupted]*

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Sorry, Honourable Bashiru. Mr Speaker, observation. I hate interrupting my learned friend' but I need the Standing Orders *[Undertones]*...

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Kellie, can you take notes and respond to those issues?

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: I take my queue.

THE SPEAKER: Take notes and respond to all the issues.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Mr Speaker, I think this is a new approach, when a Leader is talking, nobody interrupts. So let him not do that next time, Sir. He should not do that because that is out of context. When a Leader is up, we have to respect that. We are respecting the Leader from that side, so it is a principle, Sir. Mr Speaker, let us respect that.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, Honourable Sellu, it is alright.

HON. MUSTAPHA SELLU: Okay. The next time when the Leader is up, you maintain your seat.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Sellu, leave that to me, please. Yes, proceed, Leader.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I believe after my contribution, my Colleagues would have nothing to say but just to endorse the appointment and reappointment of Mr Alpha.

Mr Speaker, as Members of Parliament, we are the ones that make the laws; what the Court does is to interpret our intentions. When we say 'Consultation', we did not qualify the level of consultation. And thankfully, His Excellency the former President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma started the Constitutional Review which was extremely very good. There was a Committee formed, a lot of consultations were done across this nation, recommendations were made, White Paper was brought out but was not followed up. Also, from the Letter received, we also know that His Excellency the President, the Brigadier Retired is also considering reviewing the Constitution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a perfect occasion as Members of Parliament to support the government and His Excellency to review the Constitution and correct these grey areas. The fact that the Constitution is not clear on the level of consultation, that is the more reason as Members of Parliament we should support His Excellency in achieving the new Constitution that will stand the test of time. If we continue like this, even when we would have a new president twenty years down the line, he or she would rely on these same provisions of the law. So, Honourable Members, that is the more reason I have craved on your indulgence that all of us together as a Parliament, to encourage this government to continue with what the last government started by reviewing the Constitution so that we would have a Constitution that speaks to the realities of the current situations of the day.

Thank you very much Mr Speaker, and to the Appointees, you are wished well; we hope you would continue your good work and you would not disappoint us as a Parliament, and His Excellency the President, thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Deputy Leader of Government Business. Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara [*Interruptions*]. Order! Order! Who is that? Members of the Gallery, this is the House of Parliament, this is your House; we cannot close the doors against you because this is your House. You have the right to be here but when

you are here, please observe decorum. What we are doing here is very much important, please. Sergeant-At-Arm, can you please station somebody there. If you hear any voice, you remove that person. Thank you very, yes, Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like our employees up the Gallery, I want to use this opportunity to say thank you to an uncle who has served this nation; the Honourable Manso Dumbuya [*Applause*]. Even at his age when other politicians think it is time to beg for their retirements, he has given the people of Tonko Limba a Poly-Technic to train young people. We are proud of your steps, regardless of the political parties you served, you have done great to the peace of Kambia District; maintain calmness in Kambia District, and we are grateful.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today again we are looking at a very sensitive matter on the Floor, and the Honourable from Bo tried to skew the debate and quoted the document that he failed to read the last paragraph. In the last paragraph, the Secretary-General of the All Peoples' Congress Party said, *'before and even after the appointment of Edmond Alpha we were not consulted'*. And to prove that we were not consulted, the Letter the Honourable referred to was written on the 25th of April, and we interviewed Mr Alpha after the 25th. And at the Committee Stage, I wish my colleague on the other side would have brought forward the Letter from the President and the Letter he referred to as his supporting document for the claims he is making. As we have always said in this Well, the Honourable Members was fortunate to be here when SBB Dumbuya was the Speaker, and he taught him to say, *'to thyself be truthful'*. ***The action of the Honourable Deputy Leader is a deception to this House***, and he owes us an apology— the Honourable Deputy Leader owes us an apology.

HON. HINDOLO GEVAO: Point of Order, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara [AKK], I was going to raise that; be guided.

HON. HINDOLO GEVAO: Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member should withdraw that statement; it is inappropriate

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: I would choose my words because I am referring to the Deputy Leader. Had it been somebody else, maybe I would have said the worst because he said more than that to us; he called us '*insincere people*'; we are people of integrity.

THE SPEAKER: Okay hold on; let me hear the Deputy Leader.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, the report that was read in this House was the Eighteenth Sitting of the Committee on Thursday 9th May, 2024. And the letter I cited was dated the 25th of April, 2024. This Correspondence came even before the interview of the Eighteenth Report was done, Sir.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, for the edification of this House, the Letter you referred to is right before me and I have sent it to be printed, Sir.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: You said you do not have the Letter

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: No, you have shared the Letter and I have a copy now

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, hold on; let me listen to Honourable Lamin

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Mr Speaker, this is a House of respect, this is a House of devoted Members of Parliament. The statement coming from the Opposition Whip that had it not been the Deputy Leader, he would have said something worse than that is improper; we do not expect him to say that, as one of our Leaders in the House. We expect him to choose his words carefully in the House of Representatives, please.

THE SPEAKER: It is alright. Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara [AKK] be guided.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Honourable Members, we still have time for serious matters today, let us deal with them.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, the Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara [AKK] is a very senior Member of this Parliament please, you do not dismiss your Parliament Act.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara [AKK], when I tell you to be guided, I expect you to withdraw that particular aspect.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, let us move on, I have only said we have more important issues.

THE SPEAKER: No, withdraw that one for the purposes of the records

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, I stand on **S.O** 32 [9]

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: We are not here to play, and I do not want a situation in which... my uncle is here, please.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, I stand on **S.O** 32 [9]

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Leader.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, **S.O** 32 [9] says, *'No Member shall input improper motive to any other Member'*

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: But you called us insincere people

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: No, I did not say so.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: How do you interpret insincerity?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: It was because you said you did not receive any Letter

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: How do you call us insincere people and you want to get a terminology for yourself...

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: You are now quoting the Letter that you said you have not seen; a Letter was signed by your Secretary-General.

THE SPEAKER: It is alright

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Leader.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, like I said, let us proceed with the day's business

THE SPEAKER: Before you proceed, let us not forget that we are directly in the face of the Gallery.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: And that is why we are very careful with our words.

THE SPEAKER: And the Gallery uses whatever we do here to accord respect to Members of Parliament. Of course we have this thing about respect to Members of Parliament, not so? We are not comfortable with the respect accorded us by members of the public. So when we are in their face, we choose our words so that they do not go out there and replicate whatever we say here, so please withdraw that one.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: I take the cue from you, Mr Speaker

THE SPEAKER: Withdraw, withdraw specifically.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: What to withdraw? That is the problem; I have said so many things, which one should I withdraw now?

THE SPEAKER: The one where you said you could have said more and you used particular words.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: I would have said more; meaning, I would have described, I would have defined what insincerity meant. I have not said anything. Mr Speaker, rule on it but I have not said anything.

THE SPEAKER: So do we take it that that aspect is properly withdrawn?

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: I take the cue, Mr Speaker.

[The statement; *'The action of the Honourable Deputy Leader is a deception to this House'* was withdrawn]

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Clerk, remove that bit from the records. Proceed.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I would forward this Letter to you, but I just want to say that in the second to last paragraph, our Secretary-General said *'we were not consulted'*. And this letter came before the meeting was held, and up to yesterday

and this morning, we had a consultation and we made it clear that our Party has not been consulted; which is a Constitutional violation

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Member from the other side [*the Leader*], was saying that the man from ECSL is being appointed again by the President for a job well done. When I was young, I always look forward to be commended for a job well done [*Undertone*] yes, I am a very young and handsome man. Ask my friend, the Honourable Bullet, he would tell you that I am still young and fine. So, when the Leader said he has done a very good job, that is a very good commendation, when he said he has done a very good job, that is something the nation should be celebrating, when you said he has done a very good job, that is something that should bring us accolade as a nation, when you said he has done a good job, that is something we should be proud of as a nation. But guess what? Today, the very good job has landed us into a Tripartite [*Applause*], the very good job has landed us into international condemnations, the very good job has deprived us of the MCC; today, all the recommendations of the United States are hanged upon the Tripartite – that is the good job of the NEC, that is how good the job is from ECSL.

Mr Speaker, few months ago, we had our Liberia counterparts here and we were all proud of them. We saw how they were commended around the world when they did good jobs, we saw when they did a good job, how today they are the beacon of hope for Africa; that is how good our job should have been. But today you said they have done a good job but see where that good job has landed us. Even before the report of the Tripartite comes out, some of us are worried because it is an Agreement the President sent somebody to sign on his behalf and own up to, it is an Agreement that was presented to the President and he told us that he was going to accept all the recommendations in it, it is a document that had a TOR that was presented to State House. In case you want to know what the 'Tripartite' is, that is what it means. It is a document that calls for national unity because ECSL has messed up this nation. It is a shame that people who participated in that mess could come forward again and say they want to be re-elected, it is a shame.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Gevao.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Honourable Members, whenever we are making reference to a text of a document we have to be apt with it. The Tripartite has nothing to do with the actions or activities of ECSL *[Applause]*. The TOR of the Tripartite is to examine Electoral Laws; Electoral Reforms, not actions taken by Christiana Thorpe or Commissioner Konneh. They would not be examined for actions taken at elections, but processes that led to the elections. So you cannot say the Tripartite has messed up Sierra Leone. Let us be apt, you are a man for whom I have much respect.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, we cannot have a debate in a debate; you would have your time to debate.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Gevao. Yes proceed, Honourable AKK.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Honourable Member, I have no doubt in your capacity to defend the SLPP, wait for your time. Please wait, I respect your opinion. Mr Speaker, even when the Honourable tried to defend his position, he said the Tripartite is meant to examine electoral processes, and who is in charge of that? ECSL, that is a mess up. Do not try to defend what is not defensible. Honourable Gevao relax, this is not a court where you have a Judge on your side, here we express our views, rest my brother.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if we can go to Tripartite, we have an Agreement, we talk to ourselves on a daily bases, we talk on issues surrounding this nation, we talk about issues that affect us as a nation, we talk about the economy; we want to build a resilient economy, we talk about everything even in our social lives, we talk about football **S.O** [2] *'some of una dae even tok bot granat'*; what is so difficult to consult a political party? Yet, we say we want to work together, where is the unity? The Constitution is not saying we need to approve as a political party; it only asks that we should be consulted, and the President is not tied by our recommendation as a political party, but it calls for us to be consulted. I am so in the spirit of the Constitution

because it was meant for us as political parties to continue to intertwine; to have a point where we sit and talk on national issues. **S.O** [2] *'aaa boo, for even tel we sef, dat don cam wit fet? For le we tok to we sef na in don cam wit dis whole tin'*. You just needed to have said, **S.O** [2] *'Aaa padi, we dae appoint Edmond Alpha oh, na dat nor mor una bin need for do'*. We spent three weeks at the Appointment Committee, *'we have not been consulted'*, that was all we said. Even in this Report, there is honesty; it was never included that the APC was consulted. No, it is not in the Appointment Report; that is how sincere those who did this report were. So if it is so, what was so difficult to come and interface with us? Inclusion, national inclusion; you just needed to consult us. And Mr Speaker, just few days ago, I listened to the President in Bo, and I think I heard him very well when he said, *if you bring bullet, you will meet bullet'* [Noise]. I am sure other people took it so seriously [Undertone]...

No, allow them, it is their role. What I know is that they are here to be educated on issues. So when they applaud what we are saying, we should not shout at them for that. When they are on social media, they listen to other people, but they have the opportunity now to listen to their representatives- they are our bosses. When the President was saying bullet for bullet, I am sure he was saying if somebody brings bullet, he would meet my friend [Prince Harding-AKA Bullet]. There is no way any political party in Sierra Leone could want coup or bullet [Noise], no political party, we are a political party...

THE SPEAKER: Order, order, order.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: We are a political party because there is democracy; we are a political party because there are elections. And as the All Peoples' Congress, let me echo this again – we will not support anything that looks like coup or disrupting the peace of this nation [Noise and applause]. Mr Speaker, let me reiterate this; that as a political party, the APC, there is no way we can support coup, there is no way we can participate in a coup. As a political party, we exist because there are institutions of democracy, and the APC is one such institution. But why are we worried when the President made his statement in Bo? Mr Speaker, we live in a situation in which we

have Trigger happy Police Officers, we live in a society where the Military Officers take opportunity of every given opportunity. And when the President made such statement, it has the tendency to lead to genocide, and it has the tendency for us to be wiped out as Opposition Members. I am saying this with all sincerity...

THE SPEAKER: Honourable AKK,...Order! Order! Order. Honourable AKK, that should not be coming from you.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Noted, but I am expressing my fears

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Your fears are very embarrassing.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable AKK, you know the rules of debate, not so?

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: I do, and I am guided

THE SPEAKER: You know the rules of debate relating to the use of the President's name

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: He made the statement directly

THE SPEAKER: You cannot use the President's name in a debate.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: I am not using his name to influence the decision of the House.

THE SPEAKER: And as a Leader, you are a Leader of the Republic of Sierra Leone; as a Leader, that should not be coming from you.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I am not arguing with you in any way

THE SPEAKER: Hold on.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: I think people have not understood what I said

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, hold on, hold on. What you have said is clear to everybody. For you to say that the statement of the President can lead to genocide, and can lead to Members of the Opposition being targeted is extremely out of order. Honourable AKK I am afraid, I am not going to allow you to continue. Sit down.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Leader.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, our President is a Member of Parliament by Constitutional provision. Of course, we do not have the discussion of coup before us. Section 32[5] is out of context, and I said you have made your ruling which is absolutely relevant based on Section 32[5] because he is a Member of Parliament. Mr Speaker, with your leave, let me read Section 32[9] which talks about Improper Motive. It says, '*no Member shall impute improper motive to any other Member*'. And he is a Member, we have listened to the audio and watched the video, he did not call names; what should we do now? You have made your ruling but let us be mindful; let us tone down. We know the happenings around us; we started with the Tombo incident sometime in July, we came down to August 10, and down to November 26. These things are not happening from Space, they are happening around us. Based on the provision we have in the Constitution, the security of the State is paramount to the President because he is in charge of securing his citizens. So I am calling on my colleague, maybe with your ruling to withdraw that statement wherein he referred to the President's comment as a statement that can lead to genocide. That statement is not proper, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Clerk, remove that totally from the records

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, before you rule on this matter, I think I have made myself clear, and I made series of statements before concluding on that paragraph. So before you ask for it to be expunged...*[Interrupted]*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable AKK, I have ruled that I would not be allowing you to continue.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: No problem

THE SPEAKER: So please, sit down.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: My position still stands

THE SPEAKER: Please sit down, please.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I made a request but you have not ruled on it.

THE SPEAKER: No, I have ordered for it to be expunged.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I also asked him to withdraw that statement because it was not honourable.

THE SPEAKER: The Clerk will deal with that

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Okay, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, let it be expunged. Mr Clerk, take note of that. Some statements can be very dangerous. Yes, Honourable Sellu.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank His Excellency the President for reappointing these fine nominees for the second time. Like my Leader said, you can only be reappointed when you performed extremely well, and to the satisfaction of your boss, and that is what the President has just indicated.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not want to bore the House, and I just want to go straight to the burning issue this afternoon; the reappointment of the Southern Region Electoral Commissioner. Most of us debating currently were in this House during the Fifth Parliament when similar issue came up about consultation. The Constitution itself is silent on the protocols or modus operandi regarding consultation; it did not state whether it should be through a Letter or otherwise- that area is vague. Those of us who were here as Members of Parliament, including all those occupying the front roll on the other side of the House approved Mr Edmond Alpha for the Southern Region. So for me, rolling over the same consultation issue from the Fifth to the Sixth Parliament regarding the same nominee means, even if at the end of the day the President wants to reappoint another Electoral Commissioner, this same issue will arise again. I know that when the then Speaker was here, we all agreed, including the Leadership on the other side that based on the level of consultation at that time, they were informed. So, it is now left with you to acknowledge whatever means might have been used to

communicate to you as a form of consultation. So for you to say you were not consulted, it is like making the issue a bit difficult for the House.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Sellu, do not address your colleague, proceed with your debate; do not make reference to him.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Mr Speaker, I am just making reference to the issue, Sir, because to whom much is given, much is expected. By the time I would graduate to sit in the front Bench, I would have known how exactly to behave. To be graduated from one level to another goes with a lot of responsibilities; you have to be mindful of even the words you say because you are no longer an ordinary Member of the House.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for us to come here to debate on the nominees and we start to import issues that are not relevant to this discussion, *[the Tripartite]*, that in itself is insincerity.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Sellu, proceed. If you do not proceed, I would stop you. Relevance; we are here to approve the nominees.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Mr Speaker, I take the cue to approve the nominees, but I just want to make the record straight because we are before the Gallery and in front of Camera.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as far as the Constitutional provision is concerned, Section 32[3], our government is in no violation of the reappointment of Mr Edmond Alpha; there is no Constitutional blunder here. We are doing everything in the spirit of the law and within the confines of the law. I think the Constitution is the grand-norm of this country, and nobody in his or her right senses would violet that at any point.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think we would continue to roll over this discussion over and over again, we would get to nowhere. So for me, as a Member of Parliament representing the Ruling Party, we have to do the needful by approving all of these nominees. The two have been unanimously approved, but when it comes to Mr Edmond Alpha, things took a different shape. Let us do the needful but if **S.O 2** *'push cam pan*

shuv' we would do the right thing for him to be approved, we have the numbers to do that, thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Sellu. Honourable Engineer Tengbeh, you have the Floor. And after Honourable Engineer Tengbeh, Honourable Ibrahim Barrie would be the next.

HON. ING. FALLAH K. TENGBEH: Thank you Mr Speaker for according me this opportunity to add my voice to this debate. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Engineer Fallah Tengbeh is my name, from Kailahun District.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, arrayed before this Honourable House of Parliament are fine appointees. No wonder it has pleased His Excellency today that they are here for approval. And that is partly because they have distinguished themselves from various spheres of life; they have worked very hard in ensuring that the celebrations they received today is well meant; the celebrations they received today accords them the quality they deserve.

Mr Speaker on that note, as I wish them all well, may I comment on a few things about them. I would zero in on Mr Ngobie who is working at the ACC. Mr Speaker, when his CV was read there was no doubt that this fine appointee has the tenacity to perform his functions to the best of his ability.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, he is a fraud examiner. When we talk about corruption, we have people who are experts in fraudulent conversions. So this man has got the ability, he has got the qualifications; he has got the experience to be able to detect those criminals. Therefore if we have such a person in this Honourable House of Parliament as an appointee that is going to fight with the view of salvaging the country in terms of corruption, we must say kudos to President Bio.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me also now briskly talk to the next appointee who is no less a person but Honourable Manso Dumbuya.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there is this saying that 'good leaders must encompass maturity, semantic dexterity and clairvoyant in academic vicissitude. This is such an appointee that we are referring to.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Manso Dumbuya is a political Ronaldo of our time [Noise]. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, gone are those days when things were haphazard down the Ports Authority. With the appointment of this fine nominee in front of us today, things are going to be in the right direction at the Port. Things are exponentially in the right direction; now you would see development and the orderly nature of our Port, if we want to compare it to the time our small brothers were in power.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would as well talk briskly on Mr Edmond Alpha. I would do myself injustice if I fail to react to a comment that was made by one of the Honourable Members on the other side.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am from Kailahun District; the name Kailahun is synonymous to politics in Sierra Leone. Way back, although I would not want to go into the details of things, but over 300 polling Stations were cancelled; they were nullified.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our duty here today is not to talk about politics, but to describe our new appointees with a view of ensuring that they go to their offices and start doing their jobs. To you my appointees, of course, it is because of your hard work that you are here today. At this point, I would want to share a few things; Sierra Leone is in urgency to move forward. Politics is politics, but it is often said that *'the hottest part of Hell is reserved for those whom in terms of politics reserved neutrality'*. In essence, that means we are all politicians. But now, why are we into politics? We are into politics because of bread and butter. President Bio has achieved a lot, but I would enumerate a few successes that I would want you to work very hard to sustain. When we maintain them, I promise you, APC would permanently be in Opposition [Applause].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, firstly, I would like to implore my appointees to pay attention to operation 'Feed Salon' because that is what is going to transform Sierra

Leone into other development countries we are talking about. So please pay attention when you are at the ACC; make sure you fight corruption so that the 'Feed Salone' project succeeds.

As for you the nominee going at the Ports Authority, make sure that whatever comes in, whether from overseas or whichever part of the world meets the required people with a view of implementing the project in time. In the area of Youth Empowerment, President Bio has done very well.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you go today to most of the Ministerial Offices, they are manned by Youth Leaders; our Ministers. The Minister of Foreign Affairs happens to me my classmate— he is a young man carrying a very big portfolio. So Youth Empowerment is very important. I implore you all to pay attention to that because it is one of President Bio's successes; he has really worked very hard in ensuring that youths are empowered in Sierra Leone. And of course Human Capital Development has a thin line between Youth Empowerment, and that thin line is what you people should try to understand.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have no iota of doubt that our appointees are fine appointees, and they have seen it all. They have distinguished themselves as stated earlier from their various spheres of life, ranging from expertise, professionalism, etcetera. On that note, I call on us all to approve them as quickly as possible so that they can start doing the job of President Bio and the job of Mama Salone, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member for your contribution. Honourable Ibrahim Barrie, you have the Floor. After Honourable Ibrahim Barrie, Honourable Tamba Kellie

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: Thank you so much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as we are here today to debate on the approval of the three nominees, I would focus on the proposed Electoral Commissioner, Mr Edmond Sylvester Alpha. And before I proceed, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the Agreement of National Unity, Resolution III, dated on the 16th and 18th of October, which states that

the Committee will be informed by previous elections with a view to highlighting and addressing the contentious issues of elections and result management, including the collation, verification, authentication and publication of electoral data consistent with international best practice. This was the National Unity Agreement Paper signed by these governments; the SLPP and APC governments, and then, with a space for us to also have a Chairperson from the International Community. The reason for the establishment of this Committee was simply because the Sierra Leone's recent elections did not meet the standards of International Elections *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the proposed Commissioner Mr Edmond Alpha...

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Point of Order, Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, Honourable Barrie.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I was part of that process at Bintumani. Mr Speaker, it is very clear in the Electoral Act, 2022 which was passed by this very House that if you are aggrieved with elections, you go to Court. The question I would like to ask my colleagues for the sake of sanity, and to avoid all of these explanations going back and forth, is that did they go to court to challenge the elections? *[Undertone]* Hold on, I am addressing Mr Speaker, not you, Sir. If you did not go to Court, let us address the issue we have, which is to approve the nominee. Mr Speaker, you know very well that it is injuria; it is an assault on the reputation of the nominee, and we have to stop this, thank you.

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: Thank you Mr Leader and it is exactly what you have requested that I am doing; to approve the nomination of one of the nominees, Mr Edmund Sylvester Alpha, who is not a new person to the Electoral Commission. Mr Edmund Alpha was part of the Leaders of the Electoral Commission...

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Point of Order again, Mr Speaker. Point of Order, if you permit me.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Barrie,

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: Yes Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Because a Point of Order has been raised relating to a particular issue, move away from that issue.

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: Alright, thank you, Mr Speaker *[Undertone and laughter]*.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, this is a debate, and our colleagues on the other side have ample time to respond. If you do not want us to debate, or you do not want us to raise issues, we can as well sit down as an Opposition and say nothing. But if you have to interject when people bring issues, then it is not a debate. Let us allow the debate to go on, please.

THE SPEAKER: No, no, no, we cannot just allow the debate to go on. Like I said, we are in the face of the Gallery

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: And that is why we should talk.

THE SPEAKER: It is only appropriate that the correct information is given to the public.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, that is a debate; my wrong information should be responded to with the right information.

THE SPEAKER: No, leave that to me

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: But if you do not allow us to talk, then this is not a debate.

THE SPEAKER: It is alright, leave that to me.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: It should be a debate

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Barrie, move away from that.

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: Thank you so much, Mr Speaker, I have moved away from that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on the proposed approval of Mr Edmund Alpha, one of the Electoral Commissioners, I would like to say that according to three credible

Election Observer groups..., Mr Speaker, please permit me to reference these things. The reason I am referencing these things is because I know if I have to come to this House again for the second term, the people will reference what I did for this first five years. So, before we approve Mr Edmond Alpha, we need to reference his participation at the Electoral Commission.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Barrie, now listen to me.

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: Yes Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Now listen carefully. You see, even as I sit here, it is for me to hold the balance. Your political party was represented on the Committee of Appointment and Public Service, and they took part in the interview of Mr Edmond Alpha. Let me tell you what the issue of Mr Edmond Alpha is; the issue around Edmond Alpha is consultation and nothing else...

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: And that is where I am landing.

THE SPEAKER: No, no, no, listen.

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: Mr Speaker, this is where I am going to land.

THE SPEAKER: No, listen.

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: Please permit me, Mr Speaker

THE SPEAKER: Do not bring in any other extraneous factor. The issue around Edmond Alpha is consultation...

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: Okay, this is where I am going to land, Mr Speaker

THE SPEAKER: Okay, please hurry up and land there.

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: Mr Speaker, we were not consulted; the All Peoples' Congress has not been consulted.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let us make this clear; if they want to stifle our position in this, we the All Peoples' Congress are not going to participate in the approval

of Mr Edmond Alpha because Mr Edmond Alpha participated in the sham elections of 2023.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: We as the All Peoples' Congress, if you want to stop us from making these points, we are not going to participate.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Barrie,...

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: There are evidences,...

THE SPEAKER: Order, Order!

HON. IBRAHIM BARRIE: There is a report from the Carter Centre, there is a report from the European Union, and these are credible reports. So we are not going to participate in the approval of Mr Edmond Alpha.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Barrie. Honourable Tamba Kellie *[Interruptions]*. Order, Order, Order! Members of the Gallery, **S.O 2**, *Bo Ar bin don tok to una, Ar bin don tok to una say, una jes dae for listen to waitin we dae do na ya. Una nor tek part pan dis debate; una jes listen to waitin dae happen na ya. Una nor get right for mek comment or for allah, or for even say anything. Do ya, una jes sidom quiet en listen we ya, do ya ar beg una? Leh di Members of Parliament wae una bin don elect do una wok. En all den Members of Parliament wae una dae see so able tok enough for una. So do ya, una nor tek part ar beg.* Honourable Tamba Kellie, you have the Floor.

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Mr Speaker, I am going to dilate on the two provisions that were cited; Section **32**[iii] and Section **53**[iii] of the Constitution. First and foremost, I would like to thank the Leader of Government Business for his candour in citing Section **32**[iii], which relates to the provisions on **consultation** without any attempt by him to embellish those provisions; he cited those provisions verbatim.

Mr Speaker, the intention of those provisions on consultation is to give Leaders of the Political Parties an opportunity to see what characters are going to constitute this

institution called ECSL. And for a very good reason, they play a very critical role in the democratic process of this country. The essence of the consultation is not to tell His Excellency whom to appoint or whom not to appoint. As I said, it is clearly to give them an opportunity to assess the characters. At the end of the day there is nothing to prevent the President from insisting on his nomination or appointment. But consultation, as our Leader said, is in the spirit of cooperation or camaraderie. So as a nation we should come together and look at the candidates, and whatever views we have would not stop His Excellency from going ahead with his appointment, although the views of our Leaders would not be discounted. So that is the essence of the consultation; it is not really to stifle or to say no, the President cannot appoint whosoever he wants to operate with.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on Section **53**, the Deputy Leader of Government Business interpretation was erroneous. That provision envisages a situation where the appointment is challenged in a court of law. That is not the case here; we are saying in this Parliament, that the APC as a party was not consulted, and that is a fact. Even the Letter he was referring to, there is a passage where the Secretary-General made it very clear that the Party had not been consulted. And consultation is not a very difficult thing to do; it can be done in a variety of ways – telephone conversation, letter, etcetera, just to give a satisfaction to the Opposition or to the Leaders that yes, this is what the President wants to do, and what are your views? Those views can be discounted in the final analyses. But the idea that His Excellency can avoid those provisions and then we sit here and say oh, it is all very right, I do not think that is correct.

Mr Speaker, I do not think it is correct because the Constitution, as was mentioned by somebody, is a ground-norm; the fundamental law of this country and it is above every other authority in this country. All the powers of the ECSL are derived from the Constitution. The moment we begin to play hide and seek with the Constitution, the more we collapse the very fundamentals of our system.

So Mr Speaker, this is my own contribution; that consultation was not done, and we do not take kindly to that *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Vandy, after Honourable Vandy, Honourable Kemokai then, Honourable Mohamed Alpha Jalloh, is he here? Okay. Yes.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are here today to talk about three citizens – very good citizens. I want to take them one after the other, and let me start with Mr Augustine Foday Ngobie of Anti-Corruption.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a man up to this moment that I am speaking to you, we are friends but I never knew which political party he has ever voted for; I must tell you that with every amount of sincerity. How did I know Mr Ngobie? Before I contested in 2017 to come to Parliament, I was a teacher and I resigned in 2015. A man called Sheik Alimamy Kamara, based in Rukupr, teaching at Ahmadiyya Primary School in Robat stole my name and established an Account with the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank in Port Loko, and he called himself Kekura Vandy. When I noticed that, I reported the matter to the Ministry of Education and the Accountant General. To cut a long matter short, I had serious battle in my Constituency; my people thought I was on payroll. And down there in the Constituency, I got 49 votes out of 67; it was a landslide victory for me in my Constituency. That was the only way they wanted to fight me over the symbol.

The matter was investigated by the National Officers; their Secretary-General of course was a legal man that advised me how to go about the matter. One of my opponents wrote a letter to Anti-Corruption complaining that Mr Kekura Vandy that the Party wanted to award a symbol to was on payroll. And Mr Ngobie requested the Party Secretary-General that he wanted to see one Kekura Vandy whom he made to understand was on payroll. I was called from Bo, and I met him in his office in Freetown here. When I came, I went to the office and requested to see Mr Ngobie. He was not friendly with me at all, he said we had to put all other things aside and follow the laws of the land. The law says if someone is on a payroll, that person needs to resign one year before elections. Mr Ngobie said he had evidence before him that showed that I was on payroll, and if that was the case, they were not going to allow my

party to award me the symbol. I had to explain to him, and I removed my own documents and gave him. All the forms that Sheik Alimamy Kamara used to establish the Account in my name was displayed before Mr Ngobie. He contacted Napoleon Koroma, the National Secretary-General, and Napoleon explained to him what he knew about the situation. One of our legal advisers of the Party at that time, Lawyer Brewah was also consulted. Lawyer Brewah also explained to him but he did not still believe. Mr Ngobie took the strain and went to Bo Commercial Senior Secondary School where I used to teach and got my Pin Code to enquire whether I did resign on the 4th of August 2015. So, I am narrating all of this to prove to you that he is a man who believes in due diligence. Besides, during their tenure [*himself and Ben Kaifalah*], we know what the Anti-Corruption has done for Sierra Leone. So his reappointment is a big gain for all of us, and it would make Sierra Leone grow from where we are to a better level.

So Mr Ngobie, I want to thank you so much and I want to crave on your indulgence to go back to that office and continue your good job.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to look at another political guru, commonly called Top-Up. I admire him, and I thought he was only well known in Freetown. The other day I was in his home town where he has constructed a Tech-Voc that the Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara [AKK] made mention of just now. One thing I noticed on that day was that he is indeed a grass root politician; his people exploit his generosity seriously. When he noticed that I am a sitting Honourable Member of Parliament, he accorded me greatest respect in that gathering and said, **S.O 2**, '*Honourable, ar get one goat en one batta palmoil for you*' [*Undertones*] of course, he did that.

Top-Up, I would say thanks to you, and that is what we want our politicians to be doing; you have to be a grass root politician. Most people that are appointed to big positions ended up getting those positions because this government was voted for. But most times some fail to go to their people who voted this government in. They do not even know the Party structure. I was in one office two weeks ago and one of the

National Officers was molested by one of these appointees and I had to seriously jump into the fight.

So Top-Up, we crave on your indulgence to continue your good work. Of course, we know how the Queen Elizabeth [II] Quay is currently; it is not business as usual at all, there has been massive improvement out there. So go and work with your team and make Sierra Leone proud.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would now move to Mr Edmond Alpha. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, another interesting thing I want you to know is that when I got the symbol and my name appeared on the Bo list as **02**, after Honourable Bashiru Silikie who was 01, I had some issues that I wanted to discuss with Mr Edmond Alpha. I called and informed Mr Alpha on the phone that I wanted to have a personal discussion with him. Mr Edmond Alpha told me categorically that those were not times for personal discussions. He said if I needed anything I should either text or speak directly to him on phone. He said as for personal discussion, we can do that after elections. I said to myself, **S.O 2**, *'Ous kain man dis wae nor dae allow for mek me en im tok personally?* That tells you, maybe, he did not want to prejudice anything.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, hold on Honourable Vandy. At this point, let me also take this opportunity to recognize the presence of certain eminent personalities that we have here this afternoon:

1. Mr Patrick Sandi, he is the Director of Public Relations at the ACC
2. Mr Kuivaya Amara, Director of Operations, ACC.

You are heartily welcome to the House of Parliament, proceed.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. So that tells you, he is a man that does not prejudice at all. And the other day also I wanted some documents from him and he referred me to the office, saying that is an official function and must not be treated on personal bases, instead I must go to the office and see XYZ person. That is the way most times we expect Public Officials to behave; not because

he is my southerner brother, I should just give him instructions to do something for me and he does it unofficially.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before I take my seat, I want to bring this to the attention of the House; a very senior Member on the other side made mention of our last elections being questioned by the International communities, which is fine. But also, let me remind you that we had bigger International Institutions that also qualified our elections.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I speak to you, the election of the president of the biggest democracy in the world is being contested. Joe Biden's election is being contested, but what did they do? They went to Court.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me also remind you that the most controversial elections in the history of United State happened in 2002 between George W. Bush and Al Gore in Florida, and it was referred to as '*Miami Dade and Palm-Beach County*'. The Supreme Court of Florida ruled that 'The Miami Dade and Palm-Beach County election was to be done manually.

However, that decision was overturned by the Federal Supreme Court by a simple question posed by one of the Republican Judges. The question he asked was, '*how is the Florida law related to the Federal law, and which one supersedes the other?*' The Federal law talks about '*no manual counting*' whiles the Florida law says, '*there should be manual counting*'.

When the matter went to court, the Supreme Court of Florida called for manual counting, and the election went in favour of Al Gore, but the Federal Court overturned that decision. So the Federal law is more supreme than the Florida law.

Mr Speaker, what I am trying to say here is that election matters are clear in the 1991 Constitution that was passed by this House. The Electoral Act states that when you are not satisfied with elections, you go the court – the Supreme Court is there. Of course, if we go back to history, the former Chief Electoral Commission, Christiana Thorpe once said, if anyone was not satisfied with the elections, that person or party should, **S.O** 2,

'go na police'. Chief Electoral Commissioner Konneh is not saying go to the Police, Mr Edmond Alpha is not saying go to the Police, they are saying go with the Constitution. And I want to assure everybody that the 2023 elections were conducted within the ambit of the laws of Sierra Leone; no law was breached, Mr Speaker. If laws were breached, then you have the leverage; broad is the way to Supreme Court. On that note Mr Speaker, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to have a bite on this important debate.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Member. Honourable Kemokai, you have the Floor. After Honourable Kemokai, Honourable Mohamed Alpha Jalloh would have his bite.

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I want to join other speakers...

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, our fathers and mothers, the Paramount Chiefs, are you interested? If anyone is interested, let me know. Yes, proceed, Honourable Kemokai.

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: After Honourable Jalloh, I would want to listen to the voices of two ladies, and we round up. Yes, proceed.

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me join other Members to first of all thank His Excellency the President for giving us these fine nominees. By the way, they are all fine gentlemen and they have record of services and commitments to this country. Some of us have got no doubt that they are reappointed to serve again, and to serve our nation. Almost all the Elections in this country have been contested— from the late President Tejan Kabbah's regime, to President Koroma's, and that of President Bio's regime. By the way, somebody made mention that the actions of the Commission were shameful as a result of the Tripartite. Let me draw our attention to the Public Elections Act of 2022; the Commission cannot do anything on their own. By the way, as Members of Parliament, and as a House that is mandated by law to legislate, we ratified the Public Elections Act, and the Commissioners acted within the

confines of that law. There was nothing different that they did that was outside the Public Elections Act of 2022. So if you say for example, that the action of the ECSL was shameful, you are indirectly saying that our actions as Members of Parliament to approve the Public Elections Act were shameful as well. To me, I do not want to tell the Honourable Member who spoke around that that he ought to have known better. I just want to draw his attention to the fact that we approved the Public Elections Act.

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Mr Speaker, Mr Speaker...

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, you cannot rule this House as jungle; this House is not a jungle. You rule out other people in saying what is perceived as insulting. What he has said is worse than insulting.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, Honourable Kemokai, what have you said?

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: Mr Speaker, what I said is that we approved the Public Elections Act of 2022, and the actions of Honourable Members led to the result that the ECSL gave us, and that there was nothing different from what ECSL did. So therefore, if you are referring to that result as shameful, you are indirectly saying that our actions as Honourable Members of Parliament were shameful as well. And I said I do not want to tell the Honourable Member who uttered that statement that he ought to have known better to have spoken around that.

THE SPEAKER: No, no, do not *[Interruption]* hold on, let me handle that. Honourable Kemokai, you have to withdraw that. Mr Clerk, expunge that particular aspect. Proceed.

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: I take the cue, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Proceed.

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: So Honourable Members, I want...

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Honourable Member, hold on, please. Mr Speaker,

THE SPEAKER: Yes, hold on, yes.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I want the neatness of proceedings; we have got a new Speaker, I do not want us to continue with the same trajectory. There

are words that we do not use on the Speaker; you can make your submission quietly. The interjection by my colleague from the other side was inappropriate. For him to have said the Speaker should not use this House as a jungle was wrong.

THE SPEAKER: Who said so?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: My colleague on the other side. The reason why I brought this to your attention is because we want you to take care of your proceeding. You have all the authority given to you by law – the Standing Orders and the Constitution. You have told us in your Chamber that we must run this House with decorum; we can make our points without using invectives, without being injurious.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of Government Business, of course, I know you trust me

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I understand, and that was why I reminded you.

THE SPEAKER: Nobody can take you for granted; Honourable AKK cannot try it. So proceed.

HON. ABU KEMOKAI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. On that note, I therefore want to talk to our colleagues on the other side to join us to approve the nominees that are before us. Mr Edmond Alpha is a very hard working man, he has worked in our region and he should be commended for that; and he should be reappointed to continue doing good work for this country. He does not own the Commission at all; he was only doing what is defined in his mandates as a Southern Regional Commissioner. So there is nothing he can do different from what is expected of him, and he cannot generate votes by the way; he can only preside over what is given them. By the way, I want to call on our in-laws, **S.O 2**, our '*comanehs*' to join us to speedily approve the nominees that are before us so that they can go to their offices to serve the nation, thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Kemokai. Honourable Mohamed Alpha Jalloh, go ahead.

HON. MOHAMED A. JALLOH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I bring you greetings from the beautiful people of Falaba District – the land of milk, honey and overflowing with love. Whilst we have concerns with the re-appointment of our nominee for the ECSL in the midst of the ongoing discussions on the National dialogue which is commonly called the 'Tripartite', I want to shift my focus a little bit to the conduct of the ECSL as an Institution.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with me here today, I have the **60%** results that was announced by the ECSL as the partial Presidential results. Please, you can let Mr Speaker and the Leaders have a copy each. In this elections result Mr Speaker,

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Jalloh, do you have it in your phone?

HON. MOHAMED A. JALLOH: I do have it on my phone, Mr Speaker

THE SPEAKER: Okay, send it to the Group.

HON. MOHAMED A. JALLOH: I can forward it, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Send it to the Group.

HON. MOHAMED A. JALLOH: Yes, it is there now. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,...

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, Honourable Jalloh. Honourable Members, can you confirm receipt? *[Members confirmed receipt]*.

THE SPEAKER: *[Laughing]*. Okay, proceed.

HON. MOHAMED A. JALLOH: Thank you. So in that **60%** initial election results presented by the ECSL, you would see gross violation of our intelligence, which is tantamount to the slaughter of Statistical Probabilities and Mathematics. And that gave birth to a new phenomenon called '*Konnehmatics*'.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, please permit me to reference few of these numbers. For instance, in Kailahun District, the result states that 407 Polling Stations were tallied, and the total number of valid votes cast was...

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, Honourable Jalloh, do you know why we are here?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

HON. MOHAMED A. JALLOH: Mr Speaker, please permit me.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, hold on, Leader of Government Business. Honourable Jalloh,...

HON. MOHAMED A. JALLOH: Yes, please.

THE SPEAKER: Do you actually know why we are here?

HON. MOHAMED A. JALLOH: Yes, I do. But Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you cannot divorce the appointment of the Commissioner from the conduct of the ECSL, you cannot do that.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, let me hear the Leader of Government Business.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, election disputes are settled in Court in order to avoid all of these issues we are talking about. If you say the elections were invalid, and that the results are null and void, it means all of us sitting here are not supposed to be here. When you go to court, you go for specific issues to be addressed, and he is making reference to a document that we do not have, and is not under questioning for debate; what is in front of us...

HON. MOHAMED A. JALLOH: You can have it, Leader

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: No, I cannot, because you should have tendered it before your submission to the House. But Mr Speaker for the sake of progress, can we confine ourselves to the issue of the approval? Results are different matters, if results of elections are contested, you go to the court, and the court ruling is final for. That was why we passed the Public Elections Act of 2022, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Jalloh, I do not know why you want to start reading results here.

HON. MOHAMED A. JALLOH: Mr Speaker, it is because I want to point out certain inconsistencies in this result. An Honourable Member just mentioned that these results were not generated. That is why I want to prove to the House that these results were generated.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on. Yes, Honourable Daniel Brima Koroma.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I want to stand on the same platform that the Leader of Government Business rightly said; in the interest of progress. In the interest of progress, please allow the Honourable Member to land; he has not even landed. And besides, in my candid opinion, he is not out of order. There is a Presidential Nominee here in respect of ECSL office, so, issues around ECSL operations cannot be out of order. Therefore, in the interest of progress, allow the Honourable Member to land, and if you want to object, you can object. But he is in mid-flight and you are just interrupting him; that is not in the interest of progress, allow him to land.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, let me just respond.

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: It was a general statement he made, and he is now going to figures that have to do with the outcome of the result. What we have in front of us is the approval of nominees *[Interruption]*. I have listened to you carefully, and I was very quiet. Mr Speaker, talking about a result that they did not go to court to challenge is not tenable in this House. We made provisions in the Public Elections Act, 2022 to challenge elections result within a specific timeframe. For you to come to the House now and want to read elections result to us is completely out of place. Why did you not present that result to the Supreme Court? Why do you want us to accept it here?

HON. MOHAMED A. JALLOH: We just want to point out the statistical inconsistencies because it is a disgrace to this country.

THE SPEAKER: No, no, Honourable Jalloh, I am ruling you out of order because, the point is, why do you want to come and present evidence to Parliament?

HON. MOHAMED A. JALLOH: It is to point out the inconsistencies, Mr Speaker, and this is the very reason we are protesting that we were not consulted. Had we been consulted, we would have presented this evidence to the President.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Point of Order.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, this is a House of rules; I stand on **S.O** 32[5]. Mr Speaker, we are not here to debate election results, and Parliament is not a Court. There is a candidate presented to us for approval. Is the candidate fit for purpose or not? We are not debating election results here; if you have issues with election results, go to the Courts. We cannot be making laws, and at the same time watering down those laws. We did the Public Elections Act, 2022 in this House, and your Leaders were here. We stated clearly in the Public Elections Act, 2022 that if you are not satisfied with any election result, you go to the Supreme Court. So we are not debating election results, do not embarrass anybody, the candidate is not here to be embarrassed. Is the candidate fit for the job or not? You have your say, but do not begin to drag us to election results as if we are debating results, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I am seeing two Leaders up. Please Honourable Members, when you see your Leaders up, please sit down; I do not need to tell you that.

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: Mr Speaker,

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

HON. AARON KOROMA: Your Speakership, unlike the previous Speakers is that we participated in your elections, and we can endorse that you are sitting there on the mandate of this House, and this is a House of rules and records. My counterpart, the Honourable Leader on the other side made reference to 32[5]; the relevance of the

debate of the Honourable Member. You and I know that the Honourable Member is well protected, and well confined to the context of the debate for which we are here. The Honourable Member from Bo made mention of the elections in the United States and he made several references. There is no election before us that pertains the US, but because he was trying to make a case as to why we should approve the Commissioner of Southern Region, he made references and you did not make any comment.

So Mr Speaker, let us allow the Honourable Member to complete his debate; we would have other Members from the other side to counter us.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, Honourable Member. Honourable Members, Order. This is my ruling: Honourable Members, as I sit here, I sit here using my conscience; whatever is right, I would allow, but when things are materially wrong, I would not allow. Now the point is simple; the only reason why the Opposition challenged the nomination of Commissioner Alpha is because of the fact that they said that they were not consulted. All of these issues relating to election malpractice, election this, and incompetence did not come up at the Committee Stage. All of these issues did not come up, and even when a letter was written relating to him, there was nothing mentioned pertaining to election malpractice, election miscalculation and all of that. So, I think as a matter of fact, that the debate has to be confined to the issue of '*consultation*', because when you go beyond consultation, then it becomes totally irrelevant for us to be here. I sit here with my conscience, and we all know as Members of Parliament that, that argument is materially wrong. So therefore, I rule you out of order, please. You can proceed.

HON. MOHAMED A. JALLOH: Mr Speaker, when we point out these things, it is to make sure that ECSL does better, because what they did is tantamount to disgrace to this country.

THE SPEAKER: If I rule you out of order and you continue, I would stop you; proceed on another line. You can mention ECSL but do not go to results because those issues were not relevant.

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, for the records, Sir. The Committee on Appointments presented the report to us. And during the debate, you can agree with me that many things have been said from the other side that are completely outside this report. That is why they have brought in the report for the consideration of the whole House. There is a difference between the Plenary and the Committee Sitting. When you are...

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, Honourable Aaron. You want me to believe that things were said here that were not included...

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: This is not in court where the Honourable Member does not have the right to say something about it; it is not sub-judice, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on. Are you saying that things were said at the Committee Meetings that were not included?

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: No, no, I am referring to what happened here. Many things have been said from Members on the other side that were not part of the report, but we accepted them.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, be guided by **S.O 42**

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: This is relevant, Mr Speaker

THE SPEAKER: No, be guided by **S.O 42**

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: I know your ruling is final, Mr Speaker

THE SPEAKER: Be guided, please.

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: I know. I am just saying this for the records, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Please, please, be guided.

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: We expect much from you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: When I rule in your favour, you would be happy. But for now, accept that ruling.

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: Just deal with us through procedures are Laws, period.

THE SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Jalloh, you have two more minutes [*Undertones*].

HON. MOHAMED A. JALLOH: Honourable Members, you can distract me the way you like, but that cannot change the facts; the facts were that the elections were stolen – bottom line.

So Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I urge the ECSL to do better...

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Jalloh, you can sit down, thank you. Now, let me hear from the two Ladies. Yes Honourable Member, proceed. After you, Honourable Lolloh Tongi, and of course the Chairman, and we round off.

HON. MARIAMA BANGURA: Grateful, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me use this opportunity to say thank you to the most duly elected Speaker of our time, and the Deputy Speaker. To whom much is given, much is expected. It is no doubt that we have '*sons of the soil*'. What do I mean? You were battle tested MPs from Constituency levels, and now you rise up to these positions of Leadership in this Well; I say congratulations!

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me go straight to our nominees present before us. They are all Sierra Leoneans, and I believe by the wisdom of the President, they have gone through the Committee of Appointment and they are here for approval. Let me go to the most talked about ECSL nominee. What we have done here on the election of the Speaker tells you this time we are ready to go against any form of impunity of rigging because we voted on the final rounds and you had 128 votes.

THE SPEAKER: More than 2/3 [*two-thirds*],

HON. MARIAMA BANGURA: Yes Sir. That is to tell you that we made you the Speaker with our votes and we are grateful.

THE SPEAKER: Including Honourable Aaron Koroma, Honourable Daniel Brima Koroma...

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, for the records, you got the highest votes any Speaker has got in this House. That is why we expect much from you

THE SPEAKER: Of course.

HON. MARIAMA BANGURA: Mr Speaker, that is to tell you that we were not against you, but we only wanted to show this world and Mr Konneh that come the next elections, we would resist the impunity of rigging any form of elections. I want to say again...

THE SPEAKER: Are you talking of the 2028 elections?

HON. FINDA LUCINDA KELLIE: No problem, whatever the time, we would make sure there is no rigging. Again, let me go to our ECSL nominee of the South.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I only hope this time round Mr Edmond Alpha would not disenfranchise the 'APCians' in the South. If you check the numbers back then, compared to those in Port Loko District, you will... *[Interrupted]*

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Point of Order, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, we cannot be making statements that are not fact. We are Honourable Members of Parliament, and when you are an Honourable Member, you should behave like one. How can you say they disadvantaged APC people in the South, how can you?

HON. MARIAMA BANGURA: I did not say *disadvantaged*, I said *disenfranchised*

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: How can they disenfranchise the APC people?

HON. MARIAMA BANGURA: Mr Leader, Let me land.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: How can you? We are all coming from the South and you saw the results. These people did not even campaign.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please be guided.

HON. MARIAMA BANGURA: Thank you Sir. Okay, Mr Edmond Alpha, I am wishing you the best in advance and again, be guided this time to do the needful and what is right for the good of Sierra Leone. Honestly, as Sierra Leoneans by divine, we have

risen above region and tribal lines; and nobody, nobody whatsoever will use that veil to destroy this noble nation; we would resist you.

And again, to my own tribesman of the Ports Authority, Honourable Manso Dumbuya; I wish you well and I hope you are aware of the present constraints at the Ports and I believe you would work hard to help improve the Ports system.

Finally, to the man going to the Anti-corruption Commission, we also wish you well in advance. We hope this time there will be much difference; the teachers will not be targeted, and you will go in for the real corporate. On that note Mr Speaker, let me make this clear; we have only one Sierra Leone, and we have not seen any bullet that selects by name or type of the person it will hit or target. And as a woman of this nation, a leader, I would come against any form of intimidation or actions that would prejudice the peace we are enjoying now. We need peaceful elections; elections should be peaceful and not by blood- let us give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar. On that note again Mr Speaker, I want to say thank you and congratulations, I wish you and the Deputy Speaker well in your new offices, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Member.

HON. EMELIA L. TONGI: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank His Excellency for our three nominees. I have been saying it times without number that His Excellency is an extraordinary person because I actually do not know how he goes around looking for his nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to first of all zoom in on the proposed Commissioner, Southern Region. Mr Commissioner, I want to acknowledge that all Commissioners in this country have done great jobs, and I would give example to prove to our people that ECSL Commissioners in this country are transparent. During the Fifth Parliament, I happened to be the first female Independent Member of Parliament ever in this country. As an Independent Candidate then, I ended up defeating both the ruling SLPP and APC Party in that election. Do you think if these people were not credible I should have won that election from those two bigger parties? Because they are

trustworthy, they allowed the results to come out clean and clear. And I am sure in 2033, when probably you might be coming back to power, then you would realise they are doing a great job.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to zero in on Honourable Manso Dumbuya. I admire Honourable Manso Dumbuya because as a former Member of Parliament, he continues to promote development and make parents happy in his community. When I heard about his developmental drive, including the Institutions he has brought up in his society, I was completely mesmerised. Nobody does that, except that person is a true patriot and wants to do something good for others. I believe you are someone who likes nothing other than putting smiles on the faces of people. And I doff my hat to you, Honourable Dumbuya, and God bless you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to talk a little bit about the nominee for ACC. Of course, we all know that the guys at the ACC have made history. Throughout my entire life in this country, I have never seen an ACC that retrieves and brings back into the coffers of this country so much money as this ACC. We have seen raw cash regained from corrupt officials brought back to the government. I know there are people who might be criticising you from all angles for what you are doing. These are people who are there trying to discourage or dampen your spirit but please stay resolute; do your job and let the whole world know. I can recall the time I went to Zimbabwe to deliver a speech, and there was a Lady from Cameron that ended her speech by saying '*I want black Africans to have the likes of Ben Kaifala in every government*'. I felt so good where I was seated, and that shows the quality of jobs you guys are doing. May God continue to give you the vigour and courage to do good job for this country. I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. Now we can have the Chairman, and after the Chairman we round off. Chairman, please be brief, proceed.

HON. MARRAY S. CONTEH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank His Excellency the President for giving us very capable and

successful nominees. I would start with a brief quotation by Elhaj Malik Elshadi...*[interrupted]*

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, let me at this stage recognise the presence of Mr Askia Yankuba Bio, the General Manager [GM] of Sierra Leone Ports Authority. Can you please stand for all to see you? You can proceed, Honourable Member.

HON. MARRAY S. CONTEH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I said I want to start with a brief quotation from Elhaj Malik Elshadi, also known as Malcolm X. He said: '*A man's success outweighs his human and personal weaknesses*'. Mr Speaker, David committed adultery by sleeping with Bathsheba, but was remembered for defeating Goliath; Noah was accused of being a drug user, but was remembered for building the Ark; Solomon had 700 wives, but was remembered for his wisdom. So, we are talking here about people who are successful but they are not perfect. They might have gone wrong, they might have been misconceived in what they do but they have been successful in the things they do, and that is why we have them here today to be reappointed. I do not have much to say to you; the fact that you are here, you have been reappointed. It means you have done a good job...*[interrupted]*

THE SPEAKER: The Chairman of Western Area, the Leader of Government Business just said something, but we would discuss that *[Laughter]*.

HON. MARRAY S. CONTEH: As I was saying, the fact that you have been reappointed means you have done a good job and they want you to continue. You have gone through the interview, we are not going to interview you here again, and of course Mr Speaker, I would save you any argument on procedural technicalities. Please Nominees, go again and serve with your consciences, and remember that your actions will have a lot of implications as far as the development trajectory of this country is concerned. To Mr Foday-Ngobie, you did it before and I believe you would do it again, and the same goes to Mr Edmond Alpha.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me zoom in on a father figure; a man of experience, a humble man, a patriot, the pride of Tonko Limba and that of Kambia

District – The Honourable Manso Abu Dumbuya. As a nominee for the Ports Authority, I want to consider you very lucky; you have a very young and dynamic leadership. But please adopt the concept of two generation one future, what do I mean by that? You are a young dynamic, and you have all the energy and passion but please tap into the wisdom of the old. These are two different generations but you hold one future; united under the common purpose of development of this country, make very good use of it. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Manso Dumbuya is a successful man; he is fulfilled, he has contributed meaningfully and tirelessly to ensure that his Region becomes more vibrant, makes additional contribution to ensure that his party comes to power, and of course, he can boast of having Members of Parliament in the Fifth and Sixth Parliament; his legacy will leave on.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let us learn to acknowledge what people do for the country, let us take our lens beyond the political parties and beyond the regions. These discussions would take us nowhere. How long shall we keep this political bickering? The people we are representing will suffer. Colleagues on the other side, we have nominees in front of us, they are good people, they have good intentions to serve this country, and I believe we are representatives of the people; we have the opportunity to make a decision on behalf of our people. I crave your indulgence that let us speedily approve these fine nominees because they would do this country good, thank you very much and God bless you.

THE SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in your acknowledgements today, you acknowledged a single individual of which to me, it would be a disservice if I do not comment on that individual before the debate proper; and that name is Mr Kuivaya Amara. Mr Kuivaya Amara was at Final Honours one [1], while I was in Year one [1] at Fourah Bay College. He went to Final Honours two [2], and I went to Year two [2]; so we spent 2 years together. For your information, Mr Amara used to give me free lectures with no strings attached; in fact, he was never my friend, neither my relative, nor anything – he just

saw a poor boy that needed his wisdom, knowledge and he gave it to me. Mr Amara, I join my Speaker to acknowledge you, Sir; your good works shall follow you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, indeed I participated in the interview process of the said nominees – all three of them. And during our first engagement, we raised this issue of compliance or noncompliance of Section 32, Sub-section [3] of the Constitution. It was proven that there was no compliance and we had a closed door meeting. On that day, it was unanimously agreed that we hold on to the interview process of Mr Edmond S. Alpha as Commissioner, ECSL- Southern Province. And then we were waiting for this said compliance to happen, but to our greatest dismay, after about two weeks we convened another Committee meeting of which I was also present. Relevant stakeholders were consulted, including my party, as to whether Section 32[3] in respect of the APC Party has been complied with. The answer was 'No'; it never happened. Then I said to myself, what was the reason for all of this, what is the reason? What harm will it cause to the nomination of Mr Alpha if Section 32[3] is complied with? So I was baffled, and after that, we had some other round-table discussions at Leadership level and we ended on the note that we should go ahead as it is; anyone who survives, so be it, and anyone who encounters any casualty, that is his fate. Then I said to myself that maybe, I would deem it fit to make an obituary announcement. I therefore have an obituary announcement to make to this Honourable House and by extension to the general public and the International Community:

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I regret to announce the death of democracy in this country; I regret to announce the death of Constitutionality in this country; I regret to announce the death of Rule of Law in this country.

As it is now, whether compliance causes harm or not does not matter anymore; what matters now is for us to go ahead as it is. Whether it is necessary that way or not, let us just go ahead. We know the outcome, but for posterity, we on this side would make our position very clear.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Deputy Leader of Government Business who happens to be the seconder of this Motion made reference to the attitude of acceptance

or no acceptance for any ECSL nominee across the aisle. He made it very clear that whether Mr Alpha is a suitable candidate or not and whether the Constitution is complied with or not, we on this side would not accept- that was what we said. But what bothers me most is why he thought we would not accept? And that is my reason for the announcement of this obituary. We on this side are unable to accept; we wanted to but we are unable. You know what; we believe we are bound by the dictates of our National Constitution, and above all, to God and our Consciences. If I am to be true to myself, compliance to Section 32[3] of the Constitution does no harm to the chances of Mr Alpha to be approved. For the fact that Members on that side are aware of this, but nevertheless choose to go ahead, I am sorry for democracy because it has been killed in Sierra Leone *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, the same Honourable Member from Bo also commented on consultation. I feel sorry for him because he is not a legal practitioner; he is not a leaned colleague. But I still take the queue from him based on his own definition of '**consultation**' even though that is not the issue here at the moment. According to him, whether you use a phone, write a letter, or send your Clerk, all of which amount to consultation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, okay, fine, I take the queue, but I have an addition. The addition is, under the current dispensation, even if you do none of the above, it can still amount to **consultation** based on the precedent we have now. We are setting a precedent that tells us that doing none of the above is still **consultation** and as a result, we can go ahead – fine, posterity will judge.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, also, the Honourable Vandy from Bo made comparison between US and Sierra Leone Elections. He said, when there was election dispute in the United States, they chose to go to Court. On our *[APC]* own side, we chose not to go to court, instead preferred the Tripartite proceedings that is on now. So my caution to all of you, and by extension all Sierra Leonean, is to ensure that by the time the Tripartite comes to a conclusion and give us recommendation, it must be complied with by all concerned. Yes, we chose to go to *Tripartite* while others went to Court. The ruling in any case, should be final with no objection – so let us wait.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members... *[Interrupted]* Mr Speaker, you see what is happening up the Gallery?

THE SPEAKER: Order! **S.O** [2], *'Bo, ar bin don won una say, una nor suppose for contribute pan waetin dae happin na ya. Na udat mek da comment jisnor?* Proceed, Mr Leader.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker for your protection. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Report is with all of us, and it is our document as Members of the Appointments Committee. Mr Speaker, when I read excerpt of the Minutes as contained in this Report, and compared it to the provisions of Section 32[3], I do not want to say for now where I landed. But with your permission, I just want to read to the House an excerpt of the Minutes as contained in this Report. The Minutes says, *'the seven Ruling SLPP Members present claimed they were in receipt of some political parties' acknowledgements that allegedly reassured that Section 32[3] of the 1991 Constitution was carried'*. When I saw this I said, **S.O** 2, *'Aaa boo'*. I will read it again with your leave, Sir *[the excerpt repeated]*.

Mr Speaker, can we read Section 32[3] for the attention of the public, with your leave Sir? I would read as contained in the Report, because Section 32[3] was quoted here; so I will read the report direct. It says, *'the Members of the Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President after consultation with leaders of all registered political parties and subject to the approval of Parliament'*.

Mr Speaker, they are referencing compliance to Section 32[3] which says: *'all registered political parties must be consulted'*. But at the same time, they are giving written testimony by themselves that they received acknowledgement from *'some political parties'*, and then they interpreted that word *'some'* to be in satisfaction of Section 32[3]. Mr Speaker, if we were in private conversation I would have asked you how you see Sierra Leone going? But we are in the House of Parliament, so I would not ask you that question.

THE SPEAKER: You want me to respond to that?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: You do not need to, Sir, because I know you would be disappointed. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members...*[Interrupted]*

THE SPEAKER: What that tells me as a Lawyer is that, they received some; it is possible, other heads of Political Parties were written to, but they have not received all of those letters but they just received some. So it is neither here nor there. You can write to all of them, but what is in the custody of the seven MPs – it is not all, just few, just some of them, and that was what they stated. If you ask me, that is all I would say.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I would be one of the MPs that would be frown at the most for going into a debate with the Rt. Honourable Speaker of this House for whom I voted.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I can respond to that immediately, but I would not because of your capacity as Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You know I dropped my boots

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: And I cannot wish you to be where you were, in fact that would be tantamount to treason.

THE SPEAKER: You know I hang my boots *[Laughed]*.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: So I would not respond to that Sir, I would just proceed. But thank God, *'to thyself be true'*, if you interpret the word **'some'** to mean *'compliance'*...

THE SPEAKER: No, no, no, Honourable Daniel Koroma that is not the impression I have. With all due respect, you know that interpretation is subjective. The interpretation you are attaching to that is subjective. If the report says *'some were in the custody of the seven MPs'*, it does not mean... because in the first place, that letter by law, is not supposed to be written to the seven MPs anyway, it was not supposed to be written to them; the letter was supposed to have been written to the heads of

Political Parties. But if they are confirming that they have some in their custody, it is neither here nor there because, they are not supposed to be the recipients in the first place. So, whether they have the letters or not, it is irrelevant to me. What is important, and what I want to know is whether or not the heads of Political Parties were written to; that is the crux of the matter – not whether seven MPs had the letters or not, in fact, that is irrelevant to me. What I want you to address now is whether or not the heads of Political Parties were written to. Of course, you have said that your party did not receive any letter, and did not get any consultation. Of course, I cannot deny or accept that. But what I am saying, it is the superfluous for Members of the SLPP to say that they had some of the letters; it is superfluous, and it is irrelevant because whether they have it or not, it is totally irrelevant to the matter that we are discussing because they had no reason having possession of those letters. By law, they were not supposed to be written to, so if they got possession of the letters, as far as I am concerned, they just volunteered to have possession of some of the letters. What we should exercise our minds on as Law Makers is whether or not the heads of Political Parties were written to; that is the crux of the matter. Yes, proceed.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker on that note, I am tempted to move that we withdraw this Report.

THE SPEAKER: Which Report?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: The Report before us; a superfluous Report, a Report that is not relevant, a Report that is not tenable, especially the Minutes of the Report

THE SPEAKER: No, no, no, you see, Honourable Daniel Koroma, you are getting the entire thing wrong. What I am saying is that, in that Report, they said some of the letters were in the possession of the seven MPs- that is the fact I am referring to. Why should you go into matters relating to the entire Report? Even if it is part of the Report, does not mean the entire Report is irrelevant?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Okay

THE SPEAKER: I said, whether they stated in that Report the receipt of those letters by the seven MPs or not, it is not relevant because that is not the dictates of the law. The law dictates for the letters to be written to the heads of Political Parties, and you are taking me way round some other issues.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: So on that note Mr Speaker, if the irrelevant portion of this Report does not have anything to do with the entire Report, then you would agree with me, of course it was propounded by you, that this particular irrelevant Report that I have just mentioned is superfluous, irrelevant and is untenable.

THE SPEAKER: Irrelevant Report?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Not the Report, I said this particular portion.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Point of Order

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Daniel Koroma, I think you are a seasoned Lawyer, not so?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker let me land

THE SPEAKER: No, no, no, you are not landing because you are taking the entire thing out of context

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: No, Sir.

THE SPEAKER: If they tell you that the seven Members of Parliament were in possession of some of the Letter, how relevant is that to your argument, as to whether consultation was done or not?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Okay, I will answer you.

THE SPEAKER: That is not relevant

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: It is relevant to me because the statement says: '*seven Members of SLPP are in receipt of acknowledgements of the Letters from some Political Parties*', as opposed to the section they referred to which says it should not be **some**, it should be **all** that is my point, Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Now the question is: are those Letters required to be written to the Members of the Committee?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Yes Sir

THE SPEAKER: To the Members of the Committee?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, I said in my preamble that we first met, and after the first meeting, we found out that Section 32[3] was not complied with. The Leader of Government Business immediately made a direct call to State House in my presence, and the Secretary to the President [SP] confirmed to him that '*oh, Honourable Member, we forgot, we did not do that one*'. So as a result of that none compliance to Section 32[3], the meeting was adjourned, and Mr Edmond Alpha's interview was put on hold- that is exactly the issue here. So on the second meeting when this report was prepared, this is what was written in respect of the seven MPs who received acknowledgement from **some** Political Parties; and then they referenced compliance to Section 32[3] which states: it should not be **some**; it should be **all** - that is my point.

THE SPEAKER: Now, let me tell you; whether they received the **some** or they received nothing at all, is not relevant to your argument; that is what I am saying because your argument as far as I know, is to the effect that your party was not consulted, not so? You cannot speak for other political parties, you said your party was not consulted, not so? So limit your argument to the position of your Party – that your party was not consulted, that is the relevant aspect I want to hear. If your party was not consulted, that is the argument that is relevant here. Do not be the devil's advocate for other political parties. That is the question that we should be exercising our minds on - that is what I am saying, in any case, proceed.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, I take the cue because I want to proceed.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in our report, I said earlier that we had some exchanges at Leadership level and at Committee level. It was

stated even in that very Minutes that majority of the Committee Members approved, but the minority which represents the APC part on the Committee did not approve. And at the end of the day, it is also stated in this Report that we asked for a Minority Report; we informed the Committee that we intend to prepare a Minority Report. Based on certain exchanges, I had wanted that Minority Report to be read together or soon after the Leader of Government Business had presented his Report but I was ruled out of Order, for which I respect, and as a result, you saw no preliminary objection. I would have raised a preliminary objection no sooner the Seconder seconded but I refused because of the Orders we received at Leadership level.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are three nominees before us, and you would like to know our position in respect of all three of them. Mr Speaker, on that note, with you leave, I would read just paragraph 1 of our Minority Report regarding the three nominees.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Point of Order, Sir

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, Leader of the Opposition.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I have refused to interrupt my colleagues, especially the Leader of the Minority Party. Mr Speaker, with your leave, perhaps we need edification on the Minority Report, because to my knowledge, and the practice that we have done, they have not produced any Minority Report. What he is doing is not new. His predecessor, Honourable Chernor Maju Bah pushed for a Minority Report and it was ruled and rejected. That is why the Clerk stated it clearly in the Minutes that the APC Members went against the re-appointment of Edmund Alpha. If you read Standing Orders 76[4], the issue about Minutes is very clear; explaining how to prepare a Minutes of any Report or a Bill, and the issues discussed at that particular Committee meeting. That is why those issues about Letters given to seven MPs were stated in the Minutes. So I am expecting my colleague to realise that we are all part of the Committee, and a Minority Report comes from a Minority Sitting. That was why whenever we agree on an issue we would say it is a '*unanimous decision*', and when we disagree, we would separate that one, and that is what we have done. So the

Honourable Member has to tell us where in the provision of the Standing Orders we have issue of a Minority Report. If there is a provision for a Minority Report, we can allow him to read that provision but if there is not, I think it is not tenable.

However, your ruling is final, but the best practice is that we have never done a Minority Report. We have stated the position and the position is clear. Mr Speaker, we are putting it to a vote, and if you want you can put a Motion as well for his own vote, thank you, I rest my case.

THE SPEAKER: Normally, I think the position of the Minority is stated in the very report but for the sake of fairness, I would listen to you. I would listen to what you have prepared but normally, it is included in the body of the report; whatever your decision is as a Minority Party. But I would listen to you for the sake of it because I know; Members of the Committee are just a subset of the entire Plenary. Whatever you did not agree on in the Committee, when you come to the Plenary, it is for us to debate and agree or disagree. So, even if you did not agree there and we come to the Plenary and agree, it is final because all what you are doing there is just working for the Plenary; whatever decision you take there is not final, the decision in the Plenary is the final decision. But for the sake of fairness, I would just listen to what you have to say because eventually, let me inform Members of Parliament at this stage that I am going to put two questions at the end of this debate – two questions, the first question is going to be without Commissioner Edmond Alpha; we would take him out of the first question before we come to him particularly. That is what we are going to do so that we would try to arrive at the necessary conclusion. I know as a matter of fact, the two other nominees, well, I am just thinking aloud, I don't know, probably you have something against them; the two other nominees have no issue. I am just thinking aloud. So if they do not have any issue, we can get them to go, approve them, then we come to the question of Edmond Alpha. Where if we do not agree, then we go into votes and have the matter concluded. Would that not make all of us happy? Yes, so proceed.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, those are words of wisdom, and if you carefully listen to the point I was about to make, had it not been the Point of Order raised by the Leader of Government Business, you should not have thought aloud by now, because I was just about to tell you the same thing and then he interrupted. Of course I said it, I am on records.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: My colleague, I did not interrupt; that is not a Parliamentary language.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Okay, sorry Sir.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I raised a Point of Order and he permitted me

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Had it not been for his Point of Order, I am sorry, Sir.

THE SPEAKER: It is alright

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Had it not been for his Point of Order...

THE SPEAKER: Choice of words

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Yes Sir. Had it not been for his Point of Order, I am on record, I was about to tell you, in fact I even said it and I repeated it thrice. I said you would want to know what our opinion is for all the three nominees. So what I was about to read was to tell you our position for all the three nominees so that you can know whether there is difference or not, and then the Leader raised a Point of Order. Mr Speaker with your leave let me read our position: 'the Members of the All Peoples' Congress in the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service accept the generality of the report detailing...

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Sorry, I am really sorry, Sir. Mr Speaker, you know, on procedural grounds, you direct us, I am really sorry, please.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Leader of the Opposition.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I want to know if you are making ruling on reading a Minority report [*Undertone*] oh it is not? I rest my case, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I am going to listen to what he has to say.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, it is just a waste of time, because I told you earlier that based on our discussion outside...

THE SPEAKER: The Leader or Government warned you, not so *[Laughter]*?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Yes, but sometimes if he irritates me, after I have repeatedly said something, I am human.

THE SPEAKER: It is alright, it is alright

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Honourable colleague, when I raise a Point of Order, I am not looking at you directly; I am calling on the attention of Mr Speaker. So if Mr Speaker grants me the permission, you have to sit. You cannot say it is just a waste of time; I would not want to say you have to withdraw that statement.

THE SPEAKER: It is alright, Honourable Leader

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I am your man, your tutor in the University. He was my junior at the University; I left college when he entered college, he was my boy and I initiated him in the Auradicals Club *[Laughter]*. If he has respect for you, by an inference, he has respect for me. He was my junior; I used to give him my notes to compile whenever I came from lectures, he can confirm that to you *[Laughter]*.

THE SPEAKER: That is just a friendly fire, not so?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Leader, from today, if the respect I had for you was **20%**, I would double it to **40%** *[Laughter]*, because now I know you were a Lecturer of my Lecturer, and mentor of my mentor *[Laughter]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I said it earlier that based on our Leadership discussion I was ruled out of Order, and I said I respect that. So what I am reading now cannot represent a Minority Report, for the records. Just take that out of the records, it is not a Minority Report. But it is a document that indicates our position for the three nominees; whether we were different on all of them or not.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, *'the Members of the All Peoples' Congress in the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service accept the generality of the report, detailing nominees' profiles and interview procedures for the two appointees mentioned as:*

1. Mr Augustine Foday-Ngobie, Proposed Deputy Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission

2. Honourable Manso Dumbuya, Proposed Chairman, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Ports and Harbour Authority

And we reaffirmed the Committee's decision and again, recommend their approval'.

Mr Speaker, is there any need for you to think aloud anymore?

THE SPEAKER: I thought as much, I thought as much.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: And your instincts are correct.

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I know you are a man of the spirit; you can never be wrong.

THE SPEAKER: I am man of the spirit

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: You are a man of the spirit, though not at my level; I am at a higher level.

THE SPEAKER: Hay, hay hay, Honourable Daniel Koroma...

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: You know that I am...

THE SPEAKER: You would never know *[In Laughter]*

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I concede, Sir. Mr Speaker, on that note, people would like to know why we have accepted two but rejected the one? It is our right to tell the people the reason. One of the reasons is that we cannot be a party of a breach of Constitutional provisions...

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Daniel Koroma, please make your notes available to the Clerk after everything, because they would have to include that in the Votes and Proceedings.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Alright, Sir. As I said, one of the reasons is that we cannot be a party to a breach of Constitutional provisions. Section 32[3] of the Constitution says, '*you must serve all Political Parties*', and we on our side were never served, and minus APC, the action cannot constitute the word **all**; it cannot satisfy the dictates of Section 32[3] which demands **all**, and not **some**. APC was never served; we were never consulted in any way or form, whether by phone, by dispatch or by letter. As a result of that, we cannot support a process of which we have not been consulted.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, another reason why we cannot support the approval process of Mr Edmond S. Alpha is because of the outcome of the immediate past National Multitier Elections in the country. Concerns were raised by the International, Local and all sorts of observers regarding the irregularities, lack of transparency and lack of effective communication of the entire process.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order again. The Honourable Member is a Leader, and he is talking about sensitive matter that has to do with International Relations and our Elections. He made mention of **all** Observers; I just want him to qualify the word **all**, because we have in our possession, organisations that accepted the results. So I just want the Honourable to clarify whether he is actually talking about the word **all**.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, since you are fussy about the words **all** and **some**, why can't you qualify that?

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I withdraw the word **all** Observers [*laughter*]. And in replacement of that withdrawal, I made a fine research of which with your leave, I would like to read paragraph [c] of that research, stating our fear, opinion and our reason as to why we accepted two of the nominees and rejected one.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Paragraph [c] states, *'the APC Party strongly shares the views of both Local and International Observers that the June 23rd 2023, Multitier Elections were marred with controversies, statistical inaccuracies and mathematical improbabilities; it also lacked transparency, accountability and effective communication. It is crystal clear that the nominee in question, among other things, was one of the six Commissioners who superintended over such irregularities. The Party is therefore of the view that his reappointment as proposed Commissioner South, clearly undermines the agreement for National Unity, which is geared towards the peace building process and electoral reforms for the future credible elections'*.

[Undertone] I am reading my research material which states the position of the APC, taking into consideration **S.O** 42.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, having superintended over an election of which there are current investigations going on, and of which all Sierra Leoneans are expecting a report to be tendered to His Excellency the President for our attention, it is our candid opinion that assuming all things being equal, such a candidate for reappointment ought to have stepped aside at least for now, until those investigations are concluded. But having reappointed that individual again while those investigations are ongoing, in our opinion, we cannot...

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Point of Order again, I am really sorry. Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member is a Lawyer. I was part of the process at Bintumani; we removed the word **investigation** because we contested that language; **investigation** is a legal language. We instead used the word **review**. Mr Speaker, the reason why I am saying this is because, even before we went to Bintumani, the date for the appeal for Electoral Malpractice was far gone; they did not contest the result in court within the time given in the Public Elections Act. So there was no litigation issue. That was why we used the word **review**; even those who arbitrated us, the man from AU said we cannot use the word **investigation**.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let us not misinform the people, I was there with the Leader of the Opposition, and there was nowhere we used the word **investigation**. In

addition to that, read the Electoral Laws again, you would realise that even though they are talking about *disaggregated votes*, there is nowhere in our Electoral Laws that we have ***disaggregated votes***, instead we have what we call ***polling station results*** – I remonstrated that at the Committee meeting and they challenged us that there is no ***polling station results*** published, and we went to the website and used this Paper and Gazette, and we proved that everything was published [*Undertone*].

Mr Speaker, I would not want to go into that, I am just telling you that we are Honourable men and women of this House, and there is nowhere in that Communiqué where we used the word **investigate**; *investigate* is a legal term, you know very well, I rest my case again.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the nominee we have before us is not under investigation. So there is no reason why he should be set aside, because he is not under investigation as an individual; so please be guided.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Lecturer of my Lecturer [*laughter*], thank you for your lectures.

And for the records, replace **investigate** with the word **review**. So now we say, his conduct is under review, and as a result, based on our own opinion, if your conduct is under review awaiting a report to be tendered to no less a person but the number one gentleman of this country, His Excellency the President, it is our opinion that we cannot approve such an individual before the report is tendered, because we do not know the outcome of that review process.

Finally Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, sometimes when we dig around the issue of ***consultation*** or no ***consultation***, or the word **all** political parties or **some** political parties, you would realise that there is always an issue. Let me bring this to context, based on the current political dispensation. You would agree with me under the PR system, the APC succeeded in passing the mark; we still have the mandate of the people to represent them and that is why we are here. So when you are talking about consultation of **all** Political Parties, if you are to be true to yourself, how can you leave

out a party that has the mandate to participate in the interview and approval process of every presidential nominee? If you are really nationalistic, how could you leave out such a Party, especially when that Political Party does not cause any harm, or does not have the tendency to reduce the chances of the said nominee to be approved?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, at least for God's sake, we are representatives of the people; we have the mandate to approve or disapprove, and that is what we are exercising now. So do you not think that in the interest of Good Governance you must make it a point of duty to ensure that APC is served at all cost in accordance with the law? Even though we have the mandate to participate in the approval process, you nevertheless throw that to the corner and we were never served.

So on that note, we cannot be party to such arrangement, and now a simple matter has been made difficult, especially with the records. Bulldozing might take place and you get what you want but the records will be there. In a meeting yesterday, I quoted one of my Lecturers who said '*the Law is an Ass*'. I would not name the Lecturer here even though I named him yesterday. That Lecturer in 2008 told me at the Law School that '*the law is an Ass*' [Undertone]. Yes, a very senior Lawyer; one-time President of the Bar Association, you are my contemporary you should know. He said '*the law is an Ass*' because, sometimes when the law is in your favour you think the Law is the best servant; very humble, very appealing, very down to earth, it gives you what you want. But when circumstances change, that same Law would appear to be tyrannical, oppressional, very bad- but in any case, the Law is the Law.

So in my own opinion, and the opinion of this side, there is no justification, and in fact, I see it as very demeaning for democratic principles; to superintend over a proceedings wherein a political party that has the mandate of the people to participate in approving presidential nominees, was excluded totally based on the dictates of Section 32[3] - it is totally unacceptable.

In conclusion, we therefore on this side, under Section 108[8] say we cannot be a party to any purported changes by conduct or expressed to any dictates of the Constitution;

any change by conduct or by expressed attitude or whatsoever expressly, we cannot be a party to it, we cannot.

So on that note, on behalf of this side, I urge this Honourable House to speedily approve Honourable Manso Dumbuya as proposed Chairman of the Sierra Leone Ports and Harbour Authority, and Mr Foday Ngobie as a Member of the Anti-Corruption Commission. But on the contrary for the third nominee, Mr Edmond Sylvester Alpha, we on this side, for the fact that we were never consulted, meaning our opinion was not necessary, you can go ahead with his approval without us, fine [*Undertone*]. Mr Leader, you would have your bite. As I was saying, since we were not consulted, it shows us that our opinion is not necessary, and our input is not necessary. Therefore you can go ahead irrespective of the dictates of Section 32[3]; you can just set it aside and go ahead. As a result, we cannot participate, nor can we approve, thank you very much, may God bless you.

THE SPEAKER: Leader of Government Business.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I am waiting for my colleagues to go outside and make my contribution. I do not want to be obstructed so I would give them few minutes to walk out.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, why can't we approve Honourable Manso Dumbuya and the other before going out? You would approve Honourable Manso Dumbuya and Mr Foday Ngobie before going out, not so? Yes.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, we cannot be seen to undermine you in any way or form, okay?

THE SPEAKER: Yes

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I don't know if that is the practice, but you are in charge, Parliament can regulate itself.

THE SPEAKER: Certainly.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: If you deem it fit at this time to put that question now, then we can come in.

THE SPEAKER: No, just after the presentation of the Leader of Government Business, I would put the first question; you approve then you can go out.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: After his presentation?

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Okay, after his presentation we would come in and then partake in the first question

THE SPEAKER: Yes, certainly. Do not go too far

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: No, we are not going.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Leader.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Alright, thank you very much

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: We cannot be seen undermining you.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Leader of Government Business Leader.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I would start with the words of your predecessor, the former Speaker SBB Dumbuya: '*To thyself be true*'. Mr Speaker, they have run away because they know I have the evidences, they have gone because they do not want to see the evidences, and I will produce the evidences for the sake of clarity and for the sake of serving the interest of our people.

THE SPEAKER: So if they go now, I do not need to put two questions, not so, just one question?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, we can deal with the one question.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, proceed.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I would take my time to make clarifications. APC is telling us that we are bastardized the Constitution- APC is the one telling us that, Mr Speaker. The APC that sacked the Vice President when they were in charge of this

House; they mesmerized this House, bastardized this House, went to the Court and twisted the arms of the Judges, even when one made his ruling, they went after him and changed his ruling. Now they are telling us that we have bastardized the Constitution; 'To thyself be true'.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Section **50** of the Constitution talks about how you remove a Vice President; the Constitutional provisions are very clear, read Section [50], they are there. APC should have involved Parliament but they did not involve Parliament. This same Acting Minority Leader who is talking about legality now was here on this side. Why did he not present that one at that moment? He did not, and today he is teaching us how to move for the Rule of Law. These people removed the Bank Governor, the Late D.G. Rogers; I was on the other side. The late Honourable Momoh Pujeh said, let me quote him: '*You do not gag the law, wait for the time of the Bank Governor to come to an end and remove him*'. They removed him and brought in another person. Mr Speaker, I am not a Lawyer but there is a Latin maxim; I have used these words anytime we have appointees: 'Ex-jura jus non-orator'. These illegal things they are talking about cannot make a law. Mr Speaker, you know why you and Abel Stronge are different from the other Speakers? It is because you practiced the law before your ascendancy to the Speakership. You have been very meticulous in going to court, so you know the proceedings of what have been transpiring. Honourable Abel Stronge was very frank when he was presiding over us. Some of these things they are talking about, **S.O 2**: 'tif man in papa, na im dae see tifman pikin how for tif?' APC telling us that we are thieves? APC telling us that we have bastardized the Constitution? Mr Speaker, we have incontrovertible evidence of how they bastardized the Sierra Leone Constitution – I have just named two; the removal of the Bank Governor, the removal of the Vice President, and the list is endless.

But Mr Speaker, I have listened to them, this argument is not new, and that was why I quoted the Latin Maxim. If they are saying this is not the way, meaning they are trying to interpret their own method of consultation; whether it is going to be the Michael West interpretation of consultation or Oxford definition or Phil Collins definition et al,

the fact remains the same. I challenged them in the Fifth Parliament. We do not come here to embarrass people, we are all Sierra Leoneans. They are talking today about being educated by a Lecturer who transferred knowledge to them? Mr Speaker let us for once be respectful. You cannot do that to him, do your assignment very well; do not use your platform because of politics to embarrass people in the Chamber – that was why I was interjecting him continuously. We are talking about the issues and not the personality. You cannot attack the personality of somebody when you refused to go to court. Mr Speaker, the only way we can have a decent democracy is to abide by and respect the rule of law.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was here when we had Dr Christiana Thorpe. At that time there was no law to invalidate votes but 477 Polling Stations from Kailahun were invalidated. We asked questions severally but nobody was able to tell us how those votes were invalidated. Mr Speaker we came here and enacted that if there is excess voting in any Polling Station, the Commission has the right or legitimacy to invalidate those votes.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in 2012 elections we challenged Christiana Thorpe to cancel the results where there were over-voting and she told us to 'Go Police'. That is why I admire President Maada Bio; I admire him so much not because he is my leader, but because of his liberal and the democratic stance. President Bio went to court even when the court proceedings were flawed. He did not abuse the court, he only said '*I have my reservation but I accept the ruling of the court*'. He accepted the results in good faith, even though Christiana Thorpe had no right to invalidate those over-voting results. Mr Speaker, if you know you are a democrat make use the law. Now they are talking about election malpractices...

SUSPENSION OF SO 5[2]

THE SPEAKER: Proceed, Leader.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, as I said, we are Honourable men and women. We can make our solid points on issues that really concern all of us because

the platform that we are using is about the interest of the people. Whether someone likes it or not, there are three pathways arrangement in the Chamber. We have the Ruling and the Opposition, but there is one distinct group we have amongst us – the Paramount Chiefs. When they are in the Chamber, you think you are the 'be and end all', but when you go out of this place, then you would realise that the Paramount Chiefs are very respectable people; they are the custodian of our Chieftdoms. So our Parliament is a unique Parliament. Its formation gives us the gravitas as Members of Parliament with traditional backing that are representing the people from our different Regions. So the issue about our colleagues casting aspersions with irrelevant excuses or explanations without giving concrete evidences against this individual is totally wrong. That was why I asked them whether they went to court.

Mr Speaker let me inform you today that these people have decided not to go to court just to induce violence but we are very clever and we are democrats. Although Precedent Bio sacrificed his life, our audacity of hope carried our aspirations for a new nation, and that was why he went to court.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I told you, we did not use violence; we used the principles of playing on the psychology of human behaviour; things that affect people. Mr Speaker you know what brought us to power? Education brought us to power. Do you know why they are in Opposition? It is because they did not believe in education; that is the same reason they are busy misinforming their people about the tripartite arrangements; telling the people that there is going to be a transfer of power- that is why they are in Opposition. That is why I have been questioning the use of the phrases – to investigate, to legitimize, etc. There is no way you can bring Tripartite Report to us in Parliament; it has to go through the first gentleman, His Excellency the President, and it has to go through the Electoral Commission if there is electoral reforms. The Commission will then put it in a legal context and bring it to Parliament for an enactment. But there is no way we are going to take a report from the Opposition directly. Where are we going to put it? If you are talking about electoral reforms, how would you pass that? Go to ECSL, ECSL will call a Conference and they will discuss the

issues, take it to the Law Officers who would put it in a legal context. The Draftsman will deal with it and then bring it to Parliament for a proper debate and enactment. There is no way you would make Electoral Reforms without putting it in a legal framework. For example, in 2019 Conference, they were at the Brookfield's Hotel. During similar debate when we wanted to enact the Public Elections Act 2022, I quoted the recommendations. Mr Speaker, do you know why we have a lot of women in this House today? They recommended Proportional Representation and APC was there. But when they came to this House, they denied that we never discussed about Proportional Representation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I used the words of Bob Nester Marley who said, *'you can fool people sometimes, but you cannot fool people all the time'*; evil will never prevail over good. Mr Speaker, the reason why I always admire you is that you are a fervent Christian, and the reason why you look at me is because I am a Catholic Christian; I speak my mind because I believe in political holiness. I fear no one; I am a complete Knight and a noble one for that matter. When they behaved this way, I looked at them and said to myself that they are not sincere.

Mr Speaker, let me say this to you: we have seventeen Political Parties, nobody should come here to change things, trust me, it will not work; you do not come here to tame people, and we are not cowed by their words. We are governed and directed by the dictates of Democracy and the Rule of Law, **S.O 2**, *'you dae up tik you dae hala tiff, den wan dem ya?'* Today, we are suffering because of them; the maladministration of Pa Siaka Stevens cum Ernest Bai Koroma. These ones, trust me, they will feel the pinch.

But Mr Speaker, for the edification of the public, I am happy. You know why the Acting Opposition Leader ran away with his team? I listened to him carefully, and I would react to it; he said there was no level of consultation. Mr Speaker, there is nowhere..., that was why I said I admire you because you are a practising lawyer. If I am aggrieved with a clause which we have battled over for more than four or five years, as a real Democrat, there is only one Court that can interpret the Constitution; the

Supreme Court. They should have applied to that Court for an interpretation of '**Consultation**'.

Mr Speaker, your predecessor did explain to us the level of consultation when Solomon Berewa explained that in court. But for the sake of progress in the House, they should have gone for interpretation at the Supreme Court for another interpretation. But you know what? Not everybody is in confusion; if you are confused, others are not; others are very forthright, that is how it should be – '*esprit de corp*', we are on the other side. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are together because we share common values, and that makes us '*One Country, One People*'. We sacrifice for the people, we do not ask them to pay for education; these people are not sincere, the government is paying free school fees for their children but they criticise us and do not proffer solutions. But you know what? We on this other side would maintain our mantra; '*One Country, One People*', not colour, but policies that change the lives of our generation and to reform ourselves.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, talking about consultation, I was the one who introduced the mechanism of writing letters to political parties. When I had argument with Honourable Chernor Maju Bah, I said let us put it '**consultation**' in a framework of writing and we accepted.

Mr Speaker, I want the public to listen and see how sincere we are. When we went to Committee Room 1 on the first day meeting, we were about to interview Mr Edmond Alpha when they said there was no document to prove that they were consulted. I immediately took my phone and called the Secretary to the President [SP]. Mr Speaker, permit me to quote him in krio, **S.O** 2, 'yes, Honourable, ar nor consult them, ar nor write dem'. I at once said we cannot proceed with the interview of Mr Edmond Alpha. We were all together when I called Mr Alpha and we told him that we cannot proceed with his interview until there is a consultation. Mr Speaker, we left Mr Alpha out for over two weeks. When people are not sincere, there is always a problem. I am really not here to interpret the word '**Consultation**' because it is not my business. The Acting Leader of the Opposition just ran away saying, 'the Law is like an Ass'. And my Mentor

here, who doubles as my Chairman was explaining what '*the Law is like an Ass*' means in English Court.

Mr Speaker, on the 24th of April 2024, a Letter was written to all political parties in compliance with Section 32[3]. When I was with the then Chairman of the SLPP, John Oponjo Benjamin, [everybody knows I was his campaign chairman like I did for the Chairman we have now], do you know what they used to do for Osho Coker? They will just call and say, **S.O 2**, '*JOB, we want nominate Christina Thorpe en den oda wan dem for di Electoral Commission bo, waetin dae happen?*' Mr Benjamin would reject their calls, saying, **S.O 2**, '*bo, na phone nor mor una need for tok to we but dis?*' There was no Letter, no formal approach, nothing; that was the end of the discussion. And when we came here and presented our story that there was no formal consultation, all they responded at that time was that they called John O. Benjamin. It was Honourable S.B.B. Dumbuya that was serving as Speaker at that time. All what we did was to make our presentation and matched out quietly. We did not match out as soon like they have done; we listened to them after our presentation by the late Honourable Momoh Pujeh, and we only left the Well when it was time for the voting.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this business of them looking at proceedings and illegitimately bastardizing it and match out is not correct; they should have listened to my presentation, and match out peacefully when it is time for voting. But you see we have different classifications of human beings: there is Homo Sapien Sapien and there is Homo erectus [*Undertone*] Mr Speaker, I would prefer to stop at that and not proceed. We are Homo Sapien Sapien, not even Homo Sapien; that is why we are forthright and we know what we are doing. They have run away but the Letter was written to all of them on the 24th of April, 2024 under the heading: - *Renewal of appointment of Mr Edmond Sylvester Alpha as Electoral Commissioner, Southern Region.*

Mr Speaker, we have seventeen Political Parties, and with your leave, allow me to bore you a bit by naming the political parties. Section 32[3] is talking about Registered

Political Parties and not political parties represented in Parliament. For the records, members of the Fourth Estate take this one down and challenge me at PPRC.

Addressed to, see below:

1. Alliance Democratic Party [ADP]
2. All Peoples' Congress [APC]
3. Citizens' Democratic Party [CDP]
4. Coalition for Change [C4C]
5. National Democratic Alliance [NDA]
6. National Grand Coalition [NGC]
7. National Progressive Democrats Party [NPD]
8. National Unity and Reconciliation Party [NURP]
9. Peoples' Democratic Party [PDP]
10. Peace and Liberation Party [PLP]
11. Peoples' Movement for Democratic Change [PMDC]
12. Republic National Independent Party [RNIP]
13. Revolutionary United Front Party [RUFPP]
14. Sierra Leone Peoples' Party [SLPP]
15. United Democratic Movement [UDM]
16. United National Peoples' Party [UNPP]
17. Unity Party [UP]

Copy:

- Chairman, All Political Parties Association [APPA]
- Executive Secretary, Political Parties Registration Commission.

Mr Speaker, there is a Letter that was first sent and I will forward the two Letters to your desk for simple clarification. The first one was addressed to the Chairman of Political Parties to ascertain the veracity of what we are doing. Mr Speaker, these are the Letters for your verification.

Mr Speaker, I want you to verify that date; is it not 24th Sir? I am not interpreting '**Consultation**'. We used this as a mode of communication to inform, to talk to our colleagues on the other side; they are not better than the other political parties. The APC responded on the 25th of April, 2024, and replied immediately they received the Letter. Let me read the subject: *Constitutional Review and Appointment of ECSL Commissioner, South.*

Mr Speaker, I would just read the first paragraph, I will not go further:

Your Excellency,

I have been directed by the Leadership of the All Peoples' Congress [APC] Party, to bring to your attention the reappointment of Mr Edmond Sylvester Alpha as ECSL Commissioner, Southern Region, and the on-going Constitutional Review being conducted by your government; clearly, both actions violate the spirit of the National Unity Agreement of October 18, 2023, and endanger the effort of the Cross-Party Committee on Electoral Systems and Management Bodies Review's Tripartite Committee.

Mr Speaker, may I submit this one to you again. Mr Speaker, I would read The Section 32 [3] of the Constitution for clarification of the intent and spirit to support our democracy. The famous Section 32[3] says, '*the members of the Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Leaders of all Registered Political Parties and subject to the approval of Parliament*'.

Mr Speaker, is there anything talking about Tripartite Meeting? Is there anything talking about Committee? The thing that is there which they have refused to capture and go for clarification to the Supreme Court is '**Consultation**'. Can the APC say they were not consulted? Why did they reply to the letter and imputed some texts or languages that are not fit for purpose; it seems they do not have respect for Leadership. I cannot read that one; they have no respect for Leadership, what they only know is to use invective language. Mr Speaker, you know that, that is their habit, and that is what they have

been practiced to do. They must know that Democracy goes with humour, sense of national service and intelligence. Check them if they have one. I said '*esprit de corps*' because we are intelligent, and we have a common mission, that is why we are here. We move from that space to this space because we used the right source with the minds of Sierra Leoneans to play on them to come. When you are campaigning, you do not campaign with violence – policies that change the lives of people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me now come to Political Parties that responded. Out of 17 Political Parties, we have 9 Parties that responded. Is that not over 2/3 [two-thirds]? Do you think you are so clever than the others? Let me tell you, they were so fast to reply, APC responded on the 25th of April, 2024 whiles SLPP, we on this other side replied on the 3rd of May and they are here saying they were not consulted. They even went further to say that they were not given any letter, neither spoken to through the phone.

Mr Speaker, we the SLPP fought for Democracy; the late Pa Kabbah sacrificed so much, may his soul rest in peace. He brought in the former President as Chairman of NASSIT, and he was also known for preaching national reconciliation. President Bio on the other hand was assaulted and wounded in Bo. I was right at his back, and do you know what they did? They were mocking us in court; because our Leader then, [*President Bio*] had plaster on his head the day he went to court, some of their supporters also plastered their heads, mocking us in court. They even took the guy who committed the act and later recruited him in the police force. I had once explained that story, and here is what happened with the perpetrator; **S.O 2** '*e rotten before e die*'. You have to be careful with those who are destined to be Leaders. Mr Speaker that was what they did to this president. When he assumed power, he did not come to chase them; instead, he decided to give them the benefit of the doubt. I am a Democrat; you are talking about us bastardizing the Constitution? Mr Speaker, as I said earlier, 9 Political Parties replied. I do not know if my colleagues really understood what you were referring to as superfluous. Whilst I was in my chair quietly looking at you, I noticed that you were very consistent in dealing with the language.

Mr Speaker, the following Political Parties responded:

1. The Sierra Leone Peoples' Party [SLPP], replied on the 3rd of May 2024
2. The Peoples' Democratic Party [PDP] replied on the 7th of May 2024
3. The Citizens' Democratic Party [CDP] responded on the 7th of May 2024
4. The United Democratic Movement [UDM]
5. The Peace and Liberation Party [PLP]
6. The Republic National Independent Party [RNIP]
7. The Peoples' Movement for Democratic Change [PMDC]
8. The Alliance Democratic Party [ADP]
9. The All Peoples' Congress [APC]

Mr Speaker do you know why I am doing this? It is because Democracy is all about transparency and respect for the Rule of Law. Mr Speaker, I am beginning to see that there is no nexus between this Leadership and the Leadership at the Party office at Old Railway Line. If there was a nexus, they could not have come here and say there was no letter sent to them. The Chairman of PMDC was there when we were having the interview; he came to observe. Mr Speaker, tell me, do you need to tarnish the image of someone when you have not done your assignment properly? They come here and talk to us as if we do not know what we are doing; accusing us of bacterizing the Constitution, history will judge us. If we go back to history, they know that they have nothing to show but a spoil character of this nation. We are backwards today because they misruled us for over 24 years, S.O 2, *'usai u tie cow na dae e dae eat'*, toe line, *den feel say we don forget?* We can vividly recall. The Honourable Manso Dumbuya seated here knows what I am saying very well. He is a transformed man; he is more than eighty years in numerical strength but his behaviour is as young as people like us because he believes in young people- that is what we call youthfulness. When you say you are a Democrat, it is not how long you have stayed in power, but what you have done to transform this nation.

From a Military man to a civilian ruler; he did not impose himself on us to be the president, but conducted an election under difficult circumstances and left the shores of Freetown. Do you look at such a person as someone bastardizing the Constitution? Think about it, history will judge us. Those guys on the other side are nothing but violent people, they are nothing but behaving as if they do not understand the Rule of Law and indeed, they did not understand. If you want to be a Democrat, you must be intelligent.

Mr Speaker, there is no room for lawlessness; I have just decided to prove them wrong but if you wish to do it, you can ask for interpretation on their behalf because they do not want to do that. They only come here to say '*oh, we have not been consulted*', what type of consultation do you need? They did not go to court; they have refused to read the Public Elections Act which we enacted in this Well. We went to the Tripartite when the elections were far gone. My comrade from the Auradicals' Club, Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara wrote, and he is still reminding them that they should have used the court to challenge the results but they refused. That is why I said if you are a Democrat you should be intelligent but they are not Democrats. Their classification is simple; we are Homo Sapien Sapien and they are Homo erectus.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for me, knowledge is power; it is the only key that you can use to open any door in this world. If you cannot give anything to somebody who has imparted knowledge in you, do not go after him; do not try to tarnish his image because of your political belonging. Be conscious that you are under the service of God and humanity, and at the same time you are under oath. Remember that there was a time this very man, Mr Edmond Alpha transferred knowledge to you when you were empty. You can say anything about him but that fact remains that he is a decent human being, a pure Sierra Leonean, and there is no way you can taint his character because of your political selfishness. This man mentored them; he lectured them and he even gave some of them free marks because he is so generous. Their act is not new; they have done it twice. I believe Mr Alpha's environmental gene must have been adjusted to withstand the APC behaviour; you have got used to them. They caused us

to stand the House down for over one week, and when we came again, we explained to them. My Members asked for the Letters because we were curious to know their plans. These people did not do anything but they planned themselves, well-orchestrated in brown envelopes, with less knowledge or information given to them, and they came pelting lies upon the Commission. They refused to go to court and they want to tarnish the image of a decent human being we have; a man who had trained them to what they are today. He contributed to their lives in education which they cannot pay for. Let me say this to you; if Mr Edmond Alpha dies today, he will go to Heaven for saving humanity from illiteracy. It is not the wish of those who are not educated today; it is by the systems approach. So if you have the opportunity to be educated, and then you stand here today to say things that are not correct, it means you are still not educated; you just went to college and wrote some books, but you cannot differentiate between what is good and bad. You cannot give some lectures to your party that is misdirecting you, instead you come here to pelt odd thing about him, calling people all kinds of names.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I wonder why they are praising the Deputy Anti-Corruption Commissioner today. They are praising the Deputy Commissioner today even when their Leader, Dr. Samura Kamara has been continuously investigated. This simply means that the ACC has been vindicated for all what they have been doing; you have been doing a very good job [*Undertone*] of course, yes.

Mr Speaker, please tell them that if they think that the elections were marred with malpractice, that the elections were fraudulent; the elections did not go through the right process, let them resign from Parliament. For them to be here with us is a testament that the elections were free, fair and credible. If you are now saying that the elections were not credible, then why are they here? So today, through your good office, they might come and resign from Parliament and go to the street to cry that the elections were marred with fraud. The APC appointed N'fa Alie who conducted the 2018 Elections as the Electoral Commissioner. When results were announced against their

wish, pronouncing President Bio as the winner, they accused the Electoral Commissioner of being a criminal and they refused to accept the results.

When they appointed Christiana Thorpe in 2012, we criticised her appointment on a legitimate grounds; we said we could not participate because she had no business to invalidate 471 Polling Stations in 2007. We produced our evidences but the court never looked at us. When our votes were invalidated in 2007, our Leader, the late Solomon Ekuma Berewa accepted the results in the interests of the peace of this nation. It takes more than a man to do that type of thing. **S.O 2**, *'den wan dem, den nor go ever do den kain tin ya tay den die.'*

When some people questioned the late Solomon Ekuma Berewa as to why he accepted such a result he said: *'I love the nation, I can sacrifice myself for the nation than my political party.'* Similar expression came from President Bio when he was about to give power to a civilian government, he said: *'I prefer to sacrifice my friend than to sacrifice this country'.*

President Bio did that because there were certain elements in the NPRC who were not even in favour of elections, but he conducted the elections because of goodwill; to usher in Peace and Democracy. And today these people are here telling us all kinds of things. They have refused to participate with APPA – Victor Foh was the Secretary-General of APPA, they constituted APPA, and they were part of APPA, but today they are crying down APPA; the same APPA they used against us in 2012. Quoting the Acting Opposition Leader, *'the law is an Ass.'*

Mr Speaker, if I want to criticise you, let me do it genuinely. Mr Speaker, I do not know if it is by design, but it is good to be part of decent people; SLPP is a decent political party, I tell you for free. When we were in the Opposition, we used to challenge John Oponjo Benjamin on issues of legality. They used to say to us, **S.O 2**, *'una comot na Parliament'*, and we say no, that is not the right thing to do. The late Honourable Momoh Pujeh and late Honourable Emmanuel Tommy used to challenge our party to say no, we cannot be part of something that is not correct and we cannot come and exchange fists with our colleagues for the whole day.

As a Political Party, when the APC Leader gives instruction, they do not even sit to analyse and digest the information, instead they would just say: *'when you go to Parliament, just do this and that'* and they would in fact say, **S.O** 2, *'we go do pas waetin u don tel we'*. Is that the way to function as a political party? Political Party's constitution is very clear; it is just to take the political ideas and policies of people. That is why we belong to political parties, and that takes us to governance.

So if you are now insisting that the Electoral Commissioner, South should not be ratified, or you were not part of the process, it means he should not be the one to resign; you should resign because he was the one that pronounced your results that led to you being here today. If you are condemning the ECSL Chairman who was the National Returning Officer that announced all of those results and gave us Certificate, then why are you here? You should resign.

They have used all kinds of language against the Anti-Corruption Commission Commissioner when investigating corrupt matters, but today they have certified the Deputy Commissioner. So Ben Kaifala and team, all hail, you are in Heaven.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Manso Dumbuya is an age able man but he has transformed the lives of so many young people because he thinks like them; *'he who feels it knows it'*. You see the crowd? The praises of Manso Dumbuya is all over the place, and he is not coming from a place where they support SLPP wholly and solely; he is coming from a much challenged terrain that is against SLPP - Tonko Limba, but he has never disowned his people, and he has provided a lot of facilities for them. I was at Tonko Limba during the covid-19 pandemic and saw the wonders he performed for his people; he constructed a Technical and Vocational Institute during the covid-19, may God bless you, Honourable Dumbuya. Continue to feel for your people, give us more results, as that is what makes us SLPP, *'One Country, One People'*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Paramount Chiefs, I am sorry for taking much of your time but we need to do these clarifications for the good of all. We need to prove that we on this side of the House mean good for the country and we would continue to promote Good Governance and challenge what is good for the people of this country. I have seen your

courage, and very soon they will start to characterise you but accept that in good fate. We also need to accept that the Speaker is the Speaker, and we can make our position always known to the general public.

Honourable Colleagues, I want to end by saying thank you to all those who have contributed to this life-changing moment; the reappointment of My Edmond Alpha. I would refer to this moment as '*the reassurance of our Democracy*'. The only person that has the certificate to reassure us of Democracy is once a Head of State and now a President- President Bio. Reappointing these people means he has the hindsight, the knowledge, and the level-headedness to reappoint them without any fear or favour.

To the Nominees, take on board what you can do and forget about what they have said about you, Mr Alpha; it is not easy to bring a good man down. Mr Alpha, whether someone likes it or not, you are a good man. Let the knowledge you imparted in them give them the benefit of the doubt. You would continue to move on '*A luta Continua*', may the Lord bless us all, thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I therefore move that the Report from the two interviews conducted for the ECSL, Ports Authority and also the Anti-Corruption Commission be adopted by the House, and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, this is for the notice of the public: If we had APC in the Well, then I would have put two questions because of their position. But since they are not here, then it is difficult for me to put two questions; I can only put one. But I would give them five minutes to be here, if they are not here, then we would put just one question and proceed.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, were they given permission to leave the Chambers? It is very clear in the Standing Orders that you can enter and leave the Chambers in decorum. We do not need to wait for them because our responsibility is to represent our people. It is your discretion, but we just want you to note that they do not need permission and we cannot wait for them, but if you say so,...

THE SPEAKER: I know, let me just wait for them. Honourable Members, we have a whole lot of noise to cause later, but for now I do not want any noise on these little things. There would come a time when there will be enough noise, we all know where the noise is going to emanate from. So I do not want you to start causing noise now. I have just been informed by the Sergeant-At-Arms that they are not around, so I am putting a single question.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

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

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity, hold on, we are not done yet. So let me now take this opportunity on behalf of Parliament and by extension the Republic of Sierra Leone, to congratulate you on your reappointment into those positions. Please continue to do the best for Mama Salon. Of course, you have done so well, we acknowledge your service to this nation; continue to do the best you can for the Republic of Sierra Leone. Thank you very much, you may go.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ ADJOURNMENT

The House rose at 3:40pm, and the Sitting was adjourned to Tuesday 28th May 2024, at 10:00am.