

*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

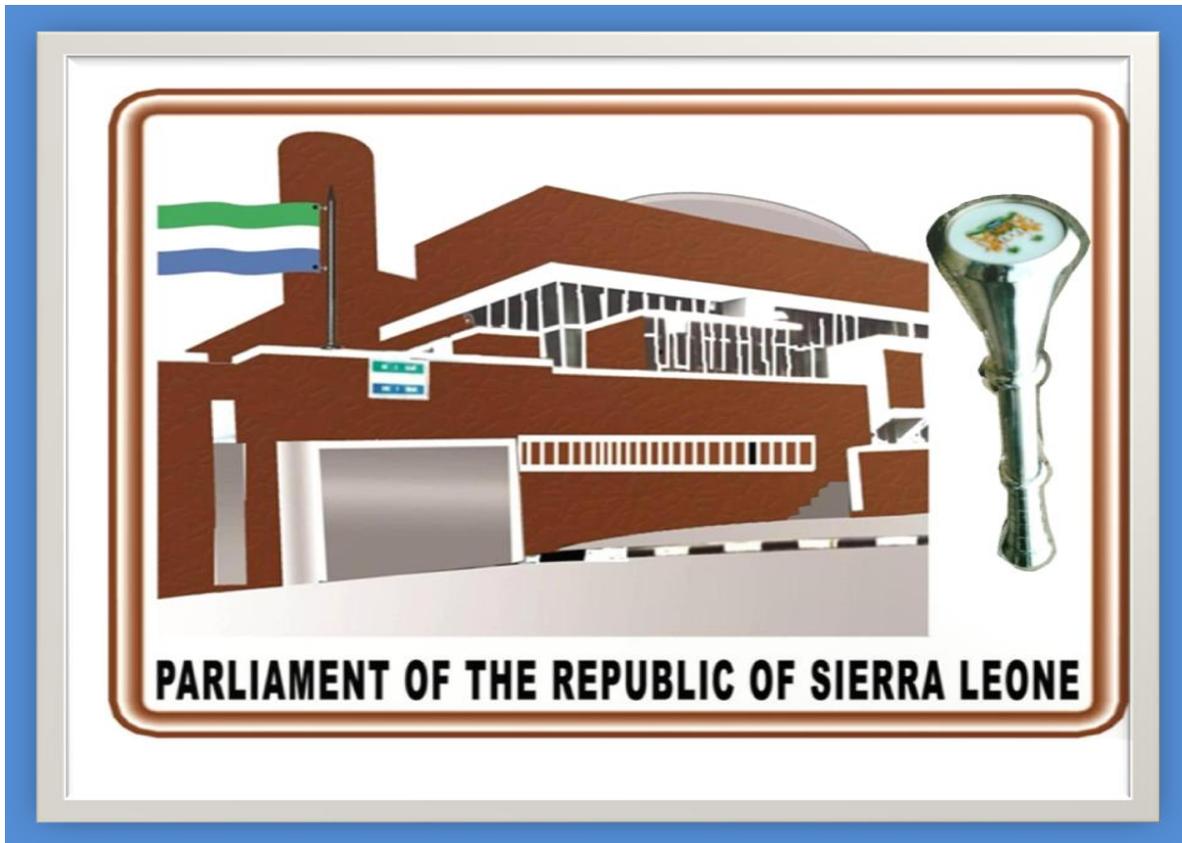
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**THIRD SESSION –SECOND MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2021**

*SESSION – 2020/2021*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

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Second Meeting of the Third Session of the Fifth Parliament  
of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone.

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House  
Held Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.

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*THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE*

**Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House**

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**THIRD SESSION – SECOND MEETING  
OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT  
OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC**

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**Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.**

**VI. PRAYERS**

*[The Table Clerk, Mr Ishmaila Kabba, Read the Prayers]*

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

*[The Speaker, Hon. Dr Chernor Abass Bundu, in the Chair]*

The House was called to Order

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I want to welcome you back to this House. I extend to you best wishes for a fruitful and prosperous 2021 to all of you and to myself. I hope the challenges of 2021 will not be as formidable as those encountered in 2020, but if at all they prove to be, they are still not insurmountable. I extend special welcome to the Leader of the Opposition. We are missing the Leader of Government Business for very good reasons that I am aware of. Again, you are heartily welcome and I hope you are well rested and ready to start work in this New Year.

**VII. CORRECTION OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON MONDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2020.**

Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2020. As usual, we shall skip the first 4 pages and go straight to Page 5. If you have any problem with your names, please contact the Clerks-At-The-Table. We start with Page 5; any amendment? Page 6? Page 7?

**HON CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, Page 6. Mr Speaker, please advise us later on the first part of Page 6.

**THE SPEAKER:** Noted, Honourable Member. Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? Page 11? Page 12? Page 13? If there is no amendment or correction, can someone move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting, held on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2020 as presented?

**HON. BRIMA MANSARAY:** I so move, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. ALICE KUMABEH:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]*

*[Record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2020 has been adopted as presented]*

### **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MR SPEAKER**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I want to start with the simple presumption that you received my communication yesterday on the Social Media concerning this second wave of the Corona Virus and how it affects Members of Parliament, particularly those travelling from the provinces to attend this sitting in Freetown. In the event that you did not or you missed it, let me just bring you up to date. My message was that we have engaged NaCOVERC on your behalf, in order to facilitate your travel from your various constituencies to Freetown. We want you to travel without any disruption from any quarter. We tried as best as possible to ensure that that was the case. However, I was told that some of you did encounter any frustration, but I want to assure you that throughout the day, I was in touch with the NaCOVERC Officials to update me on current development and the measures they wish to put in place that would affect your travel and your wellbeing as Members of Parliament. In view of this, we arrived at the following:

First, for Members of Parliament travelling to Freetown yesterday and today for this sitting, I was assured that you were free to travel without hindrance so long as you produce your Official ID card or your vehicle Number Plate.

Second, for internal travel within Freetown, there is no problem, except that everyone is subject to the curfew regulations. If any Member of Parliament has an essential function to attend after curfew hours, they must seek prior approval from the NaCOVERC. If you have any essential function after the curfew starts, then you must seek approval from the NaCOVERC officials. This is pretty straight forward.

Third, for travel from Freetown to the provinces, NaCOVERC would make a quota of E-passes available to Members of Parliament and senior staff and that will be strictly on a need basis. Fourth, for travel from Freetown to upcountry, the Member of Parliament

must first have negative test result to qualify and to the best of my knowledge, the test is free.

Honourable Members, the last point is that for the duration of the lockdown, all oversight activities outside Freetown are put on hold. For oversight within Freetown, those ones can continue.

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** Mr Speaker, with your leave, I want to take this opportunity first and foremost to thank those who negotiated on behalf of Parliament. However, we still need to negotiate further. Of course we know they did their best, but their best is not enough for this House *[Applause]*. Members of Parliament deserve the utmost respect *[Applause]*. It is only when it comes to throwing dirt at Members of Parliament you see the public expressing happiness all over the place. I am sure when it comes to bashing at Members of Parliament, the public is everywhere, but when it comes to giving us our entitlement or respect, they begin to look at certain indices. We would not accept this until it is corrected. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker *[Applause]*

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, may I ask for decorum so I can proceed? This is not a market place at all. I do not want to call the name of a particular Member of Parliament, but I heard your voice distinctly. I know that voice even when I am sleeping. I would spare you the embarrassment for this moment, but please do not repeat it; otherwise 2021 is going to turn out to be a very bad year for both of us. What I want to say to you all yesterday was a day that I felt I should seize the occasion to negotiate with the authorities to secure your unfettered travel from your various constituencies to Freetown. Having secured that, and now that you are safely here, we can now revisit some of the conditions given to us yesterday. However, the best place to do it is not in this Well. Fortunately, we have in our midst the spokesperson of NaCOVERC. I saw him a little while ago and I hope he is still with us. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs who doubles as the spokesperson for NaCOVERC is with us.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** With your permission, Mr Speaker I request that we finish the other two items on the Order Paper before this one. Members of Parliament take this issue very seriously and as the Deputy Speaker said, there is passion. Let us finish with these two items because we may not come to this House soon. So, let us finish with the first two items and allow the ministers to take leave of us. Let us stay here and do what we are supposed to do.

**HON BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, like what the Opposition Leader has just said, I crave the indulgence of this Parliament that we exhaust the Order Paper before the NaCOVERC spokesperson is allowed to say something. Let us complete and allow the ministers to take leave of us. We however encourage the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, who doubles as the spokesperson for NaCOVERC to stay whilst we discuss this sensitive issue. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** On that note, I invite the Acting Leader of Government Business and the Leader of the Opposition to come forward.

Honourable Members, I want to assure all of you that the concerns, muted as they may be, that you have expressed are well noted. When we were dealing with these issues yesterday, we were not oblivious of them. However, what was important yesterday was to get you to arrive here without much hindrance; and now that you are here, we will put modalities in place to engage the spokesperson and the Minister of Defence who is the National Coordinator for NaCOVERC after this sitting to make representations on behalf of all of us.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, I want to be heard on this issue before we proceed.

**THE SPEAKER:** I have consulted with your Leader, Honourable Member.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, I understand that perfectly. I however want to be heard before we proceed on this issue. What I want to say is very important.

**THE SPEAKER:** You want to reopen the whole matter again?

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** I want to be heard before we proceed on the issue and not to reopen the matter.

**THE SPEAKER:** If I get the slightest inclination that you are about to reopen it, I will disallow you from continuing.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, you have the right to do so because you are the Speaker of this House. Mr Speaker, there are certain things which if we have had the opportunity to be heard before now, we would not have reached to this point. That is why I wanted to say something. Mr Speaker, we must be given what is due to every Member of Parliament. The Deputy Speaker did say that we ought to be given the respect we deserve. You have said before this time that we must restore the sanctity of this House. They are now making laws for us, instead of Parliament. This means we are not the legislators anymore. The Executive cannot make laws and we follow. It must be the reverse and we must go back to the rules. This is my submission *[Applause]*.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKI:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I still continue to crave the indulgence of this House to go with the Order Paper and thereafter we discuss this very sensitive matter. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** This is not to say your point is not well taken, Honourable Member, but at least respect the Leadership and the Speaker. The point you have vehemently expressed has been taken note of and therefore let this matter rest.

## **IX. PAPER LAID**

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this House the National Report for the Third Circle Universal Periodic Review, January 26<sup>th</sup> – January 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 *[Applause]*.

## **X. BILLS**

[A] THE NATIONAL REVENUE AUTHORITY ACT 2020

[INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, I stand on S.Os. 47 [2]. Mr Speaker, due to the importance of this Bill and because Members of Parliament are just from recess, I move that this Bill be read the first time and referred to the Legislative Committee for pre-legislative hearing before the second reading. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder to that Motion?

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** I so second, Mr Speaker.

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

**MRS PATRICIA LAVALIE [Deputy Minister of Finance]:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled the National Revenue Authority Act of 2020, being an Act to provide for the continued existence of the National Revenue Authority as the central body responsible for the assessment and collection of Taxes and specified revenues to provide for the administration and enforcement of specified laws and to provide for other related matters be read the first time.

*[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]*

*[The National Revenue Authority Act, 2020 has been read the first time].*

**HON. PC BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** Mr Speaker, I want to know if this is an amendment or a repeal of the Parent Act. I am saying this because there is already a National Revenue Authority Act. Is this one seeking to amend or repeal? The National Revenue Act is already in existence.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Paramount Chief, I do not want us to belabour that point. Let me refer you to the very last page of the Bill. Please turn to the last page of the Bill, under the Memorandum of Object and Reason. I am sure you can read what is written there.

**HON. PC BAI KURR KANAGBARO SANKA III:** I am talking about the title of the Bill.

**THE SPEAKER:** If you are still not satisfied, wait for the Pre-legislative hearing.

**HON. CHERNOR RM. BAH:** Mr Speaker, I totally agree with you. That is why we have decided to send the Bill to the Legislative Committee, so that Members are properly educated on this Bill. I am sure some of these questions will be discussed there. I would like to plead with the Minister to provide the Parent Act. Secondly, since the Bill we are going to repeal and replace was passed in 2002 when none of us was in this House, I will encourage the Leadership of this House to exercise patience with ourselves and the Minister. I am saying this because when we talk about revenue, it is always a very sensitive issue. I am certain that the pre-legislative hearing will help us because apart from the memorandum you referred to, even Section 44 [1&2] states it in the Bill. Section 44 [2] talk about repealing the National Revenue Authority Act of 2002. So, it is stated in this Bill.

Mr Speaker, I want to plead with the Minister to give us enough time to go through these documents that have been referred to in the Bill. Please be patience with us, so that by the time we finish, we would have done justice to the Bill.

**THE SPEAKER:** I hope the Honourable Minster has taken note that the House wishes to proceed by making haste slowly as far as this Bill is concerned. We shall make haste very slowly because of the ramifications involved.

**Hon. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr speaker. Mr Speaker, before the Minister leaves, I would like to announce to this House that the pre-legislative hearing on this Bill will be on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Again, as the Opposition Leader said, we encourage every Member of Parliament to go through these documents, so that when we come on Thursday, we will be in position to make meaningful contributions. I am certain that the Parent Act will be provided to us. I encourage Member to look at this Bill in tandem with the Parent Act. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, let us proceed.

[B] THE MEDICAL EXAMINERS ACT, 2020

THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

[INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING]

**THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that the Bill entitled the Medical Examiners Act, 2020 be read the first time

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[The Bill has been read the first time]*

**HON BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.Os. 47 [2]. Owing to the sensitive and important nature of this Bill, I crave the indulgence of this House for a pre-legislative hearing on this Bill, so that Members are properly educated. Therefore, I move that we commit this Bill to the Legislative Committee. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any seconder?

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** I so second, Mr Speaker

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]*

*[Pursuant to S.Os. 47 [2], the Bill has been committed for pre-legislative hearing]*

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** The pre-legislative hearing on this particular Bill will be held on Friday at 10:00 a.m. and the NRA Bill will be held on Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, with your permission, I would want to make a statement before the Minister of Internal Affairs leaves. I am happy that the Minister of Internal Affairs was head of the SLRSA before he was moved to serve as Minister of Internal Affairs. I am sure he will recollect that when he appeared before the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, the only discussion I had with him had to do with the safety of our roads. Mr Speaker, after his interview and approval by this House, I followed up with him and I am sure he did his own bits. However, since he left that institution, the SLRSA has not done as much as we expect them to do. We are not saying that they are not working, but they have not done as much as expected.

Sometime last year last year, I engaged the current head of SLRSA in the presence of the Deputy Leader and the Leader of Government Business in a friendly environment because it is not everything that we publicise.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the safety of our roads is nothing to write home about. We have lost more lives last year through road accidents and COVID 19. These deaths could be minimised. Our roads are death traps. I want to encourage the Minister of Internal Affairs [even though SLRSA is under the Ministry of Transport, but traffic control is under the Ministry of Internal Affairs], to call SLRSA, so that they work with their counterpart in the Ministry of Transport and Aviation. Mr Speaker, I saw you on Friday when you were going upcountry between Masiaka and Magbere Bridge. In one of the curves, you and your escort had to manoeuvre because a vehicle was parked on a risky area.

**THE SPEAKER:** In fact, there is a very huge pothole.

**HON. CHERNOR R. M. BAH:** We are risking the lives of our people. So I want the Minister to engage SLRSA on some of these issues. I have done it in private at least three times before making this statement here today. The Deputy Leader of Government Business and Honourable Alusine Kanneh can attest to this. I have called them to this Parliament privately. I have now decided to make it public and even if you were not here, I was going to do it. They should be robust in their approach because the lives of our people are very important. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I cannot thank the Leader of the Opposition enough. Honourable Members, the incident he made reference to concerns my own safety as an individual. However, for the dexterity displayed by my driver, I am afraid you would have heard an incident. It was very serious and precarious. The road between Masiaka and the Magbere Bridge is full of big potholes. They have been identified and marked, but nothing has been done. The big holes are still there.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thank the Opposition Leader for bringing that to the hearings of this Parliament. The Minister of Internal

Affairs was extremely proactive when he was heading SLRSA and now that he is Minister of Internal Affairs, I will talk about the traffic congestion in Freetown. Mr Minister, when you were head of SLRSA, I used to see you active in not just about safety, but even helped to control the traffic in the far Western parts of Freetown. The rate at which we are experiencing traffic congestion is worrisome. You will spend nothing less than an hour when moving from Wilkinson Road to Juba. So, I would want the Minister of Internal Affairs to make sure he does what he used to do when he was in charge of SLRSA. I am sure you now have a very huge responsibility as the Minister of Internal Affairs. Again, Committee Chairpersons should be seen doing their work. We have listened to the Opposition Leader and I want to crave the indulgence of the Chairman of the Committee on Transport and Aviation to summon SLRSA and ask relevant questions relating to some of these issues.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as Chairman of the Committee on Works, I can authoritatively state here that the procurement process is ongoing to fill up those potholes. SLRSA has advertised and the procurement process is ongoing, Mr Speaker. I am sure that process will soon be completed. I want to advise that we have a joint Committee meeting with SLRSA, Ministry of Works and Ministry of Internal Affairs, so that we look at these issues, especially the potholes and traffic congestion in Freetown.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, now that we have the spokesperson for NaCOVERC, who is also the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, I want to use this opportunity to make an appeal. Well, we will talk about it in private. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, let us go back to item III. We skipped it, so that we can proceed with the reminder of the Order Paper and we have done that. We are reverting to that item. First of all, I would like to bring to the attention of Honourable Members that the content of a letter I have received from Ambassador Raymond D'Souza George of the Office of the President, dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 contains a humble request for help to mobilise parliamentarians. I need your attention, so that I can read out the content of the letter. It seeks to mobilise all parliamentarians targeted for a particular purpose. The letter reads:

Dear Sir,

With the 60<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary looming, it is my desire to solicit the participation of all parliamentarians in consolidating a climate of peace nationwide. The current political climate and possible challenges ahead make this imperative. It is my conviction that you can help facilitate this great trek towards peace, harmony and national cohesion by encouraging each Member of Parliament to contribute a sixty word statement of peace on behalf of his/her constituency to the national goal. It would be highly appreciated if their statements can be submitted to my Office on an A4 Sheet with the name and constituency number at the top, against the 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.

With great expectation, I look forward to the participation of our patriotic representatives.

Signed: Ambassador Raymond D'Souza George,

Office of the President

In addition, the Ambassador has prepared this document which he has kindly made available for distribution to all Members of Parliament. I plead with all of us to pay heed to this humble request. The second announcement I wish to make concerns the request made earlier by the Leader of the Opposition that the NRA Parent Act of 2002 be made available to all Members of Parliament. Our technicians have just given me this notice that it is available on your computers. Well, if your computer is not working or you do not know how to operate it, the technician is at your disposal. Please seek his assistance.

**HON. MOHAMED B. SHAW:** Mr Speaker, we need the hard copies. We can read the soft copies here, but we cannot take the computers to Committee Room 1 for the pre-legislative hearing.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please approach the technician, so that he can take you through.

**HON. MOHAMED B. SHAW:** Mr Speaker, we will still need the hard copies during the pre-Legislative hearings in Committee Room 1.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, as my colleague said, we still need the hard copy. The reason is that we only have access to these computers in the Well, but these documents have to be read in tandem with the current Bill. So, I want to encourage the NRA and the Ministry of Finance to provide the hard copies of the Parent Act, so that Honourable Members can study them at home and make necessary research based on the existing laws and the proposed Bills.

**THE SPEAKER:** Finally on my part, I want to respond to a reminder that was raised by the Leader of the Opposition when we were considering the Votes and Proceedings; i.e., the top of Page 6. You recall that the House had invited the erstwhile Minister of Lands to a meeting, so that he can produce the necessary documents he had promised the House since our very first meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2020. Now of course that Minister is no more a Minister, but that does not exempt him from being answerable to this House because his obligation continues. He will now appear before us as the former Minister of Lands.

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** Mr Speaker, I want to crave your kind indulgence for this House to deal with the Office instead of the Individual [*Applause*]. Let us get the former Minister to include that in his handing over note to the new Minister. We will have to summon the new Minister.

**THE SPEAKER:** I agree with you, but let us be cleared about one thing that at the time the act was committed, it was the incumbent the focus was on and not the office.

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** I am pleading, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, let us take a lead from what is happening in the United States presently. President Trump is no longer President, but that has not prevented the Impeachment proceedings from continuing.

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** Mr Speaker, without going into the details of that, I want to plead that we deal with the office. I am craving your indulgence Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is really not for me alone, but for the House to decide.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, in addendum to what the Deputy Speaker has said, we have met with the Minister of Lands and he made a lot of promises to us. So, we will continue to probe into the Ministry of Lands and not individual. So, I propose that we probe the Ministry, instead of the individual. We expect him to present a comprehensive handing over note to the incumbent; and once the new Minister settles down, we will ask him for these documents and continue from where we stopped with the erstwhile Minister.

**THE SPEAKER:** The answer to what you have proposed lies with this House. However, I want to remind the House that the initial invitation was not to the Ministry, but the Minister himself at the time. He is no longer there as a Minister, but that does not relieve him of the duty to answer to this House. He remains answerable to this House.

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** We did invite the Minister of Lands and not Dr Denis Sandy. We did not invite Dr Denis Sandy, but the Minister of Lands.

**THE SPEAKER:** Well, we are now inviting him as the former Minister of Lands.

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** Mr Speaker, we are begging Sir.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, we are still going to invite the Minister of Lands. We invited the Minister of Lands and we would continue to invite the Minister of Lands... - *[Undertone]*.

**HON. HASSAN A. SESAY:** Mr Speaker, it might interest you to know that this man is still signing land documents. This is as recent as yesterday. I am saying this authoritatively because I am au fait with the situation and somebody from Youyi Building gave me that information. He should be brought to answer questions as requested by Mr Speaker.

**HON. SEGEPOH S. THOMAS:** Mr Speaker, until that document he is referring to is before this Parliament, otherwise we cannot comment on it. We should not comment on a document that he is just referring to. If he is sure about what he is saying, he should present the document.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, please do not go into the details. Mr Speaker, you know I will not go against your decision.

**THE SPEAKER:** You have never gone against my decision, but let me remind you that you raised this particular matter.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, all I want to say is that I raised the matter because I thought we were going to close that particular issue and proceed with the other issue. I am not averse to bringing Dr Denis Sandy here if the need arises, but I agree with the Deputy Speaker. Let us focus on the Ministry and if in the process we need Dr Denis Sandy, then we invite him *[Applause]*. I am sure if we focus our attention on the individual and forget about the institution, we may meet a dead end. Therefore, I want to join the Deputy Speaker to plead with you. I am sure this House is not too happy with the Ministry of Lands. However, I am sure this House will not want the new Minister to fail. We want him to succeed and the only way we could help him is not to allow him to start on turbulent footing.

**THE SPEAKER:** We are not dealing with the new Minister.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** We should deal with the Ministry.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, Honourable Member.

**HON. CHERNOR R.M. BAH:** Mr Speaker, we are dealing with the Minister. You are the Speaker of Parliament and whatever happens with Parliament affects you even if it had happened in the past. This is why I am pleading with you to continue from where we are. I am certain that if we need Dr Denis Sandy at any point, this House will summon him. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Let me hear other speakers on this issue.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, you already know my position on this matter. We have discussed it in some other quarters and discussed it as Sierra Leoneans. I almost convinced you into accepting the fact that you will continue to be a magnanimous person. As far as I am concerned, I know the position you hold. You

believe in discipline and the aspects that are necessary for the good governance of this country. This is why you need Dr Denis Sandy here. However, we do not need to bring him here to prove that point. I did convince you that there is no point bringing him to this place. We want you to continue to exhibit your sense of magnanimity as a Sierra Leonean who is concerned about the welfare of other people.

**THE SPEAKER:** We are not flogging a dead horse. The person in question is still alive.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, Dr Denis Sandy has come and gone. I am certain that he made quite a number of errors.

**THE SPEAKER:** He has come and gone, and in his trial he left a lot of heartaches [*Applause*].

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** I will continue to ask you to be magnanimous. You know that this matter can be discussed in some other quarters. What I want you to understand is that you have nothing to benefit and the House as a whole has nothing to benefit by bringing Dr Denis Sandy here.

**THE SPEAKER:** I totally disagree with you. This House has a lot to gain from that.

**HON. IBRAHIM B. KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, we have nothing to benefit by bringing him here. I have made this point time and time again that you should present a sense of magnanimity and this is what you have always proven to be. Mr Speaker, I hope I have made my point.

**THE SPEAKER:** You have made your point, Honourable Member. You may take your seat, Honourable Member. I want to hear the Honourable Member from Port Loko.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I strongly believe that the actions of Parliament should not be influenced by the Executive or the Judiciary. I am sure the reasons for the dismissal of Dr Denis Sandy could be quite different from the reasons for which Parliament summoned him here. Therefore, I advise that we summon him to come and face this Parliament [*Applause*]. We are doing that because we have questions for him to answer. These questions could be quite different from the reasons

he was dismissed. The actions to be taken by Parliament should not be influenced by decision taken by the Executive or the Judiciary. Parliament should be independent.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is Parliament and Parliament does not deal with individuals. We deal with heads of institutions. We were dealing with Dr Denis Sandy in his capacity as Minister of Lands. We were not dealing with him as lecturer or as private individual. We dealt with Dr Denis Sandy because he was Minister of Lands and we will continue dealing with the Ministry. I am certain that whether Dr Denis Sandy is there or not, we will deal with the Ministry of Lands [*Applause*]. I will crave the indulgence of this House to continue dealing with the Ministry of Lands and Country Planning. We should not lose sight of the responsibilities of this House. We have no business with Dr Denis Sandy when he has been relieved from his position as Minister of Lands. We should raise the issues with the new Minister. We expect Dr Denis Sandy, in his capacity as former minister, to submit a comprehensive handing over note to the current Minister. Whatever issues we have now should be presented to the new minister. The Executive is answerable to this Parliament. Let us focus our questions to the Ministry. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** With respect to the handing over note, that is an internal affair and not an affair of this Parliament.

**HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, you stated the point and this House cannot depend on an internal transition report for the questions the people of Sierra Leone want Dr Denis Sandy to answer. Yesterday, I listened to international news and it was made known that American does not have a procedure for impeaching a former head of State, but they are now trying to put together the necessary procedures. This is also telling us that you can be Minister today, but if you did the wrong thing when you were a minister, you can be brought here to give account for your actions. This will caution incoming minister to understand where Dr Denis Sandy left the Ministry. Mr Speaker, we support you and you have always given us a sense of direction when it comes to issues like this.

**THE SPEAKER:** I have not given anybody the Floor. I will come to you, but please take your seat.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, as acting Leader of this House, I am sure when the Leadership of this House speak, it is in the interest of every Member of the House. I believe the Members of Parliament have immense respect and they believe in our Leadership. This is a House of rules and a House of respect. I crave your indulgence, as Acting Leader of this House together with the Opposition Leader, that we discuss the issue in your chambers. We still have the NaCOVERC spokesperson in the Well. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I will give due consideration to the representation just made by the Acting Leader of Government Business. I would also like to hear from few speakers, so that we are properly guided. This issue will remain alive but for now we suspend further discussions on it [*Applause*]. That does not mean that the issue has been concluded at all. It remains very much alive, but because of the dimension it is taking, I will suspend further discussion on it.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, I would encourage Members to read the following:

- state of the Public Service of Sierra Leone, Report of the Public Service Commission for the year 2018 to 2020;
- the Cybercrime Act 2020

Introduction and First Reading

Second Reading, Committee Stage and Third Reading

Minister of Information and Communications

- National Revenue Authority Act

Second Reading, Committee Stage and Third Reading

The Minister of Finance

- The Medical Examiners Act, 2020

The Minister of Internal Affairs

Second Reading, Committee Stage and Third Reading

- The Allied Health Professionals Act, 2020

Introduction and First Reading

The Minister of Health and Sanitation:

Second Reading, Committee Stage and Third Reading

- The Wages and Compensation Commission Act, 2020

Introduction and First Reading, Second Reading, Committee Stage and Third Reading

The Minister of Finance:

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

*[The House rose at 11:05 a.m., and was adjourned to Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2021 at  
10:00 a.m.]*