

OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

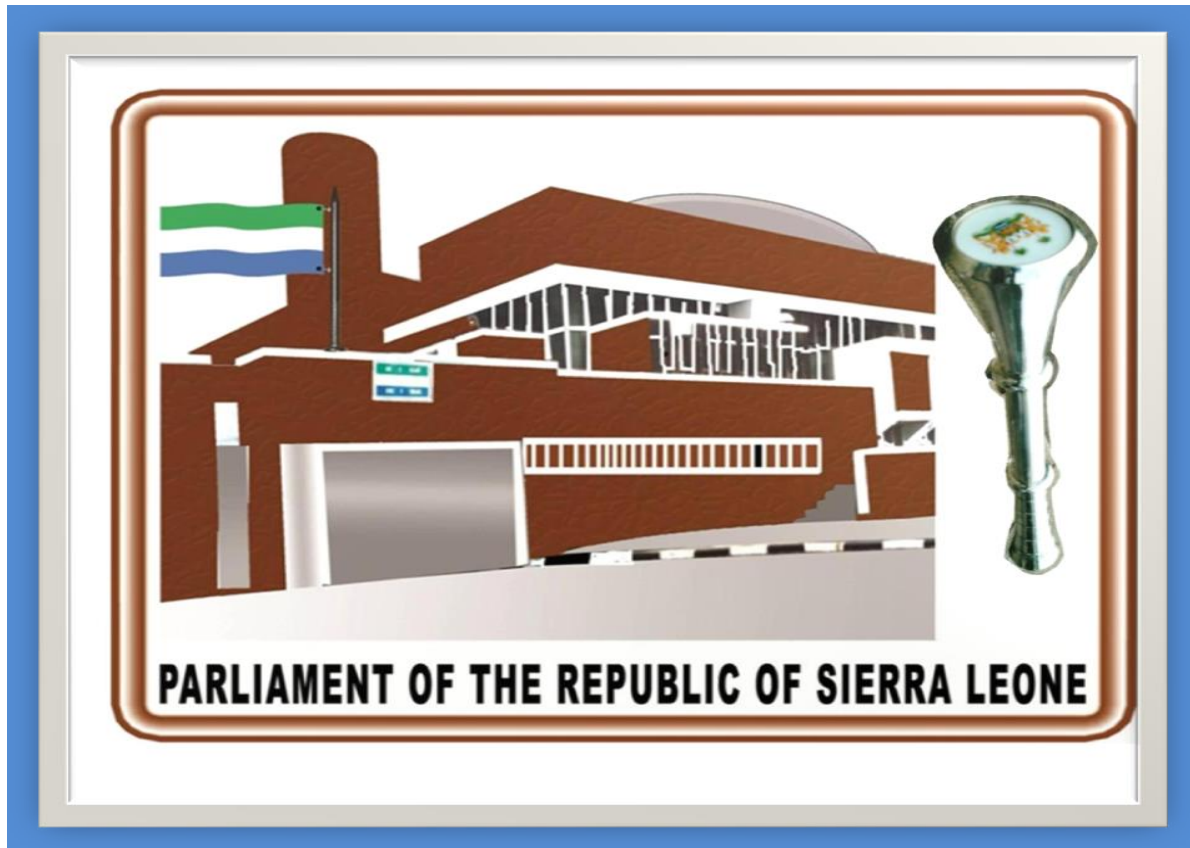
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER, 2024

SESSION – 2023/2024



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held Tuesday, 5th November, 2024

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PROPOSER: HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

SECONDER: HON. NENNEH LEBBIE

BE IT RESOLVED:

"That we the Members of Parliament here assembled wish to thank His Excellency the President for the Address he so graciously delivered on the occasion of the State Opening of the Second Session of the Sixth Parliament of the SECOND Republic of Sierra Leone in the Chamber of Parliament on Tuesday, 6th August, 2024"

(SECOND ALLOTTED DAY)



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

TUESDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER, 2024

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Mr. Gilbert Bosco N'habay (Acting Clerk of Parliament), Read the Prayers]

[The House met at 10: 10:05 a.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]

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

Record on Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 31st October and Monday, 4th November, 2024 respectively

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we have two records of Votes and Proceedings, the 31st October, 2024 and for the 4th of November, 2024. So, let us take the Records on Votes and Proceedings for the 31st October, 2024. We skip pages 1-5 and we will start on Page Six. I have a correction to make. The provision that I referenced in my announcement was Section 137[10] not 119. Any other correction on Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? And Page 8? We are on the Votes and Proceedings for the 31st October, 2024.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE [DEPUTY LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS 1]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the document, beginning with the communication issues, the names are not mentioned in the Votes and Proceedings.

THE SPEAKER: That is true Honourable Deputy Leader. The names should be mentioned in the Votes and Proceedings. The Committee should look into the tariff and other charges of the mobile networks; Orange in particular and Africell. It was raised during the debate and we agreed, resolution was taken and the names were duly passed and agreed to by the House.

HON. DANIEL B KOROMA: Mr Speaker, on that note, due to the urgency of the situation, I move that we skip that one with urgency, that particular page will be printed with the names included by the Clerk today, so Members will be served with those copies and from that time now, the Members will arrange themselves based on your Ruling.

THE SPEAKER: I agree Honourable Members! Mr Clerk, please let us take note. So we continue from Page 9. Any correction on Page 9? Page 10? Page 11? And Page 12? We now take the Records on Votes and Proceedings for Monday, 4th November, 2024. We skip pages 1-4 and we start on Page 5. Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Can someone move

for the adoption of the Record of Votes and Proceedings for Monday, 4th November, 2024?

HON. : I so move Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. : I so second Mr Speaker.

Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To

Record on Votes and Proceedings for Thursday, 31st October, 2024 and Monday, 4th November, 2024 has been adopted and amended.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: No announcement for now. Maybe at the end of the session, I will have an announcement to make.

Motion of thanks to His Excellency the President Dr. Retired Julius Maada Bio. Proposal: Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma, Seconder; Hon. Neneh Lebbie.

[Second Allotted day]

The Debate continues.

HON. BASHIRU SLIKIE [Deputy Leader of Government I]: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is just maybe an appeal. Mr Speaker, I am just appealing to your office that during the debating period, if you listen to the media like the radio station, wanting to report on Parliament, you would find out that most time, the Well is not that quiet and when we are dealing with our people, the undertones have made the Well so open that the place has become noisy and this is an opportunity for us to market our job that we are doing. Mr Speaker, when Honourable Members are debating, we want to appeal to colleagues to allow the place to be siring a bit, so that we will get the message and we are able to understand what speakers serene saying. We are begging to have decorum in the House. You know, if somebody is making a point, you can stand on Standing Orders to counter the person, but during the course

of the debate, it is good we have a quiet debate please. It is just an appeal through your kind office Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I do take note of your appeal and Members of Parliament, I am sure you must have listened and I crave your indulgence to please make your undertones quietly. Honourable Members, undertones are part of Parliamentary practice. Even if you go to the House of Commons, the first thing that you will hear is the undertone, but let the undertones remain undertones. So we start with Honourable Rugiatu Rosy Kanu.

HON. RUGIATU R. KANU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy for the opportunity giving to me to contribute to this debate. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have peace through this debate speech and I have seen a lot of vague achievements and a lot of promises. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when the Leader of Government Business was making a presentation yesterday towards the debate, he mentioned the achievement of the Government on Education, especially on Basic Education. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to bring to your notice that the Free Quality Education is questionable. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to bring to the attention of the House about teachers in Government schools. We know that for the Free Quality Education to be successful, we must have trained and qualified teachers, but the School Census Report of 2023 says, 28% of our teachers are not trained. Last week, I was listening to a radio discussion in which a member of the SLTU said that, they have about Ten Thousand teachers who are not on payroll. So, if we have this number of teachers who are not on payroll, how do we expect them to deliver effectively to our children? Mr Speaker, these teachers as the President himself, stated in his Speech that a hungry man is an angry man. So these teachers referring to hungry men are in the class room to teach our children. What do you expect from them? They are in the classrooms and at the same time, they are thinking about their basic needs of sustenance. So, what do we have at the end of the day is that we have a lot of children enrolling in schools, but they are not learning. Mr Speaker, it is hard for pupils to do basic skills of reading and Arithmetic. Mr Speaker, it means that we are producing a

crop of pupils who cannot articulate well in public and who cannot construct a simple sentence, simply because, they do not receive effective learning and instructions.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you cannot talk about Health without making reference to water and sanitation facilities. Mr Speaker, health, water and sanitation, are closely linked to human capital development and so when we have health issues of our children in schools, this exacerbates to a lot of problems within the school system and this eventually undermines their health. Mr Speaker, we have a lot of schools within Sierra Leone that do not have toilets. Even those with toilets, could not serve the growing population of these children in the schools. So what is the implication of this? We have our girls, during their menstruation, they could not find access to place and maintain their dignity. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the right to water and sanitation is a fundamental human right of children. Mr Speaker, our children need a safe and supportive environment. An environment where they are being valued, where they are respected and where their dignity is ensured.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, before going to the Tuition fees that we spoke about, let me give a brief breakdown of washing schools according to the 2023 annual school census...*[interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I said it yesterday that in this debate, when once you are making your submission, you should also guide us accordingly, so that we can keep track of what you are saying.

HON. RUGIATU ROSY KANU: I am still on Education Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The page and paragraph?

HON. RUGIATU R. KANU: It is on Page 22 and I am talking about Paragraph 34.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Honourable Member! What is your point of observation?

HON. MUSTAPHA M SELLU: Mr Speaker, my senior colleague said that, there are lots of girls who in their menstrual period are not well taking care of. Our First Lady of

the Republic of Sierra Leone has distributed over One Hundred Thousand (100,000) sanitary pads to young girls across the country.

THE SPEAKER: Sorry Honourable Member, I would have to rule you out of order. Yesterday, I stated in this Well to the two both sides that whenever there is a point on the Floor, we have other members that will take the floor. If your point of order is to correct something that is being said or something that is misplaced, then you can do it; if in the instance, you cannot render a debate to a debate. So I will rule you out of order. Let the next debater take note and respond accordingly.

HON. RUGIATU R. KANU: Okay Mr Speaker. It is on Page 5.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Honourable Member!

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: I need this clarification Mr Speaker. In the events for instance when Honourable Rose is currently debating and after her submission, I want to come up to make certain clarifications, but really, it is not my own turn to debate. Do I have the platform to come and make those clarifications?

THE SPEAKER: The Honourable Member needs to know better. He has been in this Well for too long.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Because we are here talking and this is the highest law making body. This country depends on us and whatever that comes out of here, they take it for granted. So in a line of that Mr Speaker, we on the Government Bench have to make certain clarifications before it goes to the public. So I am just saying, if i have a point to make or to clarify certain issues that have been raised from the other side, do I have the permission to do that?

HON. RUGIATU ROSY KANU: Can I make a clarification?

THE SPEAKER: Hold on!

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: I am addressing the Speaker and not any Honourable Member here. So, I do not expect any Member of Parliament to respond to my statement. I need the speaker to respond to that statement. I am just asking for

permission. I think the English is clear. My point here is directed to the Speaker to give me permission not to ask favor from you or answers from you sir.

HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMS-LAMIN: Mr Speaker, point of order Sir! Mr Speaker, two Members of Parliament cannot be standing together. The Honourable was talking whilst the other Honourable from the other side is standing. He was the one that raised the point just now that when we are debating, the Well gets noisy. We will not get the correct information of what the Honourable Member is saying, when the place is noisy. Let us act orderly and secondly Mr Speaker, a Member of Parliament should not tell his colleague that he ought to know better. Please ask Honourable Abdul Karrim Kamara to withdraw that statement.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Nobody said that.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: You said that and it is on record.

THE SPEAKER: I did not hear that Honourable Member!

HON. RUGIATU R. KANU: Honourable Chief Whip, I have gone beyond that. I choose my words. You can go and look for the records.

HON: You said that.

HON. RUGIATU R. KANU: No, I did not say that please!

THE SPEAKER: Order please! Chief Whip, what is your point?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: My point is simple, you have made the point very well. If a member is making a point and you think it is debatable, note it down and pass it on to the next debater. Let us have a siring debate that is just what we are asking for in this Well. She has not made any Serene statement that needs to be countered. It is a debated point that she made. When she was talking, I noticed that the entire side of the ruling Bench is not organized, because if they are, they would have passed on the information.

HON. RUGIATU R. KANU: Thank you my Leader. Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 34 for the reference and the edification of the House. Mr Speaker, the issue on the Floor is

purely within your jurisdiction, so that is why I am referring you to S.O 34. So can I read some few lines Mr Speaker?

THE SPEAKER: Go on!

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, S.O 34 is used to raise a point of order. When the point of order has been stated, the member who raised it shall resume his or her seat and no other member except with the leave of Mr Speaker or the Chair shall rise until Mr Speaker or the Chair has decided and make ruling of the point being raised, after which, the member who was addressing the House or the Committee at the time of the question raised, shall be entitled to proceed with his or her speech giving effect to the ruling of Mr Speaker or Chairman. Mr Speaker, these are simple procedures. So, if you want Mr Speaker within your jurisdiction, as clearly stated in the Standing Orders, it is within your purview to do so and you cannot say you want to raise a point of Order to make a clarification. You are the presiding officer. We do not need to rancour over this and we should be mindful with the words that we use among us. Civility among us is more important than any other thing. We are Honourable Members. So what is going to happen, you should not just raise a point of order, if you are talking about serenity within the Chamber. You should allow when a Member of Parliament is speaking, let the person conclude and you can raise another issue. So, I am just begging you to rely on the Standing Orders 34(2).

THE SPEAKER: Very well Leader and I will implement the Standing Orders to the latter. For the records, Honourable Sellu, I learnt that revenge is best served code. So it is best to note whatever and whosoever has submitted in the debate and whether the immediate next person or subsequently after that person, you can still serve it in the right form and in the appropriate manner. So Honourable Member, you may continue.

HON. RUGIATU R. KANU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for the edification of this House, I would want to make a clarification on the issue of safe places for girls whilst they are on their menstruation period. Yes, you may have sanitary pads but as women, we know during our menstruation, there are certain times during the day that

you will need to change this sanitary pad and so you need water, you need a private place, either a toilet to ensure that your dignity is preserved that is what I meant. So Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want you to look at the annual School Census and the records of the washing schools, we have 45% preprimary schools, 35% primary schools, 28% Junior Secondary Schools and 23% Senior Secondary Schools. So you see, as we go up the ladder, the wash in School Facilities dwindles down. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, washing schools is in an appalling and prerequisite condition, and so we need an immediate action to salvage the condition of our children. Otherwise, the rights and dignity of our children would be compromised.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you talk about Tuition free and quality school and Mr Speaker, what has this free quality education done, is by removing the direct cost of schooling, but the indirect cost still persists Mr Speaker. Our poor parents have to buy school uniforms, they have to buy books and they have to pay for compulsory school items in our schools and Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, because of the economic conditions in the country, most of these Parents could not afford even those basic items to send their children to school, and here we are Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have commissioners, directors of ministries, Departments and agencies that are sending their children to private schools and the rest of mankind send their children to the public school and we are talking about quality education which means we are not honest to ourselves and we do question the quality of education that we do provide to our children. Mr Speaker, I will now move to the Feed Salon Project. Mr Speaker, we all know the importance of Agriculture and Food Security and it is a critical issue that affect not only the Economy, but it also affect t the Health and Well-being of our people. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here as a representative of my people to say, that the Feed Salon Project is an economy burden to our people. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our people, the average Sierra Leone spends almost 70% of their income on daily sustenance. Yes, go and check the WFP food monetary security report. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are talking about Feed Salon and you cannot talk about Feed Salon without talking about road infrastructure and

market linkages. Mr Speaker, most of the areas where we have agricultural productions, has the worst roads in this nation.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have one minute more remaining.

HON. RUGIATU R. KANU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you can see, even the Tomabom Road, the Bonthe Road and the road leading to the President's home is the worst road in the country. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we cannot feed Sierra Leone on propaganda and funfair. We cannot feed Sierra Leone on a live support economy or intensive care economy that depends on donor supports. We cannot feed Sierra Leonean with fragmented roads, high transportation cost and the need to take even the products from the farm to the consumer because, it is already expensive. How do we expect our families, how do we expect the average Sierra Leoneans to be able to afford the basic meal per-day? Mr Speaker, according to the WFP Food Security Monetary Report, it says that....*[interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: And on that note?

HON. RUGIATU R. KANU: Mr Speaker, let me just give that percentage. And on that note, according to that report, it says that, there is a dramatic increment in the prices of local food as well as imported rice. Why? It is because of the increase in taxes. Mr Speaker, we were in this Parliament, where we advocated to the President not to sign the Financial Act, but now that the Financial Act has been signed, Mr Speaker, our people are going to suffer the most. So for me, the Feed Salone cannot achieve its goal. Therefore, in the next coming year, the Feed Salone Programme will Kill a lot of Sierra Leoneans. I thank you for your attention.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Honorable Lady for her wonderful submission to the debate. On that, what we have to continue to answer and to take responsibility for such. It is the fact that we cannot chirruping what we have said in the continuity of governance. If we are faced with challenged roads, it means, there were problems yesterday. So somebody has to continue with those problems today.

HON. MUSA B FOFANAH: Point of order Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

HON. MUSA B FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O 34. Mr Speaker, you will agree with me that this House is a House of respect and this House is a House of precedent. Mr Speaker, the issue with this report is that, yesterday, it was a UNDP report and today, it is a World Food Programme's report.

THE SPEAKER: Can you wait on your turn to make your point?

HON. MUSA FOFANAH: Mr Speaker, the reason we should clarify some of these things, is because these are some of the things that appear on the social media, radio as against the government, which we think as Members of the ruling Bench, we need to clarify those items. Mr Speaker, you do not want to treat us with respect. You need to allow us to clarify some of these issues. Yesterday, this report was UNDP's report and today, it is World Food Programme report.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Fofanah, can you resume your seat? You have more time to do that, so do not worry about it. I am sure Members of Parliament on my right are taking note and they are going to respond accordingly to whatever they think and feel is not true or what they think is inconsistent with the truth. So on that note, I will call on the Honourable Charles Abdulai Jonah Sahidin.

HON. CHARLES O. ABDULAI: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I take the queue to make statement on this special day and on the speech delivered by His Excellency the President on the 6th August, 2024 in this Well of Parliament on the occasion of State Opening on the Second Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone. There is an adage that says, "when a child washes his hands well, he shall eat or dine with kings." But before doing that, let me just make some clarifications and refute some of those submissions made by the Honourable Leader.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, from the submission of the Honourable member, she made all her points, but at the end of the day, she could not tell us the benefits we have achieved in relation to the retention rates. Secondly, she failed to tell us the

performance of pupils in public exams, because these are the pointers of every government. When the Chairman of Education comes, he will give you the statistics, but just so, I will allay your fears and I refute your submissions.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, hold on! The Honourable Members on my left, you must do what you preach. Honourable Member, you may proceed!

HON. CHARLES O. ABDULAI: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the rate of malpractice in schools, public exams and even in internal exams is alarming. If we could be honest with ourselves, we can judge and compared this based on the previous years concerning what has been the malpractice rate in schools, you will find out that, this government has tried its best to reduce that one. People had relied on exams malpractices to achieve higher grades and higher qualifications. Also, she mentioned about washing schools. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot have been achieved by this government and other partners on washing schools. As I speak to you right now, I am the lead consultant for washing promotion in five districts of this country, including water, sanitation and marketing.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Speech delivered by His Excellency, Page 1, Paragraphs 5, which I considered as the executive summary of that speech encompasses almost everything he delivered. In the first place, His Excellency the President admonished the Honourable Members that this Parliament is the hub of the country. The future and hope of our constituents and our people are entrusted in this House. Therefore, we should do everything humanly possible not to fail our people. That is why our people are always angry when my in-laws walk out of Parliament, because we are being entrusted with their hopes and dreams.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, secondly, His Excellency the President understands very well the diversity within this Parliament, but he commended this Parliament for unity. So far, we have achieved, because our legislations that have been passed are very critical to the development of the country. The agreements that support the government activities, all of these are colligated in our unity as a Parliament.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when this speech was delivered on that day, our commitment to our people as expressed by our President was very laudable. He has expressed that and he valued that one. So Mr Speaker, let me go to Page 3, in the area of Agriculture and in relation to the commitment of government to salvage its people from hunger. Mr Speaker, Page 3, Paragraph 23 talked about Agriculture and Food Security. Mr Speaker, with your leave, it reads, "Agriculture and Food Security are a corner stones of a nation stability and prosperity. It transcends mere substance from a crucial pillar of National resilience economic growth and social well-being." That is why I toe the line with the Honourable Lady that said, according to His Excellency the President, a hungry man is an angry man. He knows very well that that is why all modalities have been put in place now. Recently in this Well and in the presence of the Honourable Lady, we approved grants in relation to Agricultural grants such as Food System, Transition Supports, and Agricultural Value Train Agreement were done last week. These were all tools that the President and this Government will use to achieve the issue of Food Security in this country. So with that Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot of efforts have now been put in place. The President knows very well the challenges that we have with the food system in the country. To achieve Food Security, it is not a day's job. It needs proper planning. As a Government that is in the people's center, the President has determined to tackle insufficiency of food in the few years to come. That is why all of these are put in place to achieve such venture. Let us also look at the expansion of the rice production programmes, mechanization of value change, research and quality input, revival of corporative on Page Four. These are some of the areas that we are lagging behind in this nation. When we had those cooperatives in the previous years, they served as brokers to support farmers in terms of inputs like seeds, agricultural inputs. They will serve as an intermediary between the people and the Government and even the external supports that do come. All these have been lagging, so His Excellency the President and his team have planned to revitalise all those areas so that when those are being achieved, we will achieve the food sufficiency that we said we will achieve.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have One Minute!

HON. CHARLES O ABDULAI: Mr Speaker, the area that I mention in my speech, where I said; "When a child washes his or her hands, he or she will eat or dine with kings." The donor confidence and the international community of this government is very laudable. The Millennium Cooperation [MC] award is an example. Our image as a country has been dented over the past years. Mr Speaker, S.O 2 "ihh bin dorthy, but d pa don was an." Also, the solemn part of his speech was his concluding statement. As a Sierra Leonean or as a leader of this nation, if you go through the concluding statement, they are very solemn. I cannot go there, but if you read, you will see it there.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note, I want to reiterate and say a very big thank you to His Excellency the President for delivering such a wonderful Speech to this Parliament. In his conclusion, Mr Speaker, the President said in Paragraph 18(2) that, with your leave, I read, "your dedication, collaboration and commitment to the principles of good governance is vital and together we can build the Sierra Leone where every citizen has the opportunity to strive and where justice, equality are not mere ideals." So, I want to thank you very much for your attention.

THE SPEAKER: Your time is up! I will now give the Floor to the Honourable Alpha Ben Mansaray from Moyamba district. Honourable Dainel Fornah, can you please relocate?

HON. ALPHA BEN MANSARAY: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me first of all thank the Honourable Member from Bo for making a clear point even though we have not seen any justification of achievement made to this isle of Parliament, but I want to thank him. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want the ruling Bench to take this debate as a democratic dialogue. This nation needs us, so whatever we do here, we should have concerns on sustainable development growth. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to make some clarifications on what the Honourable from Kailahun, Kissy teng area said with regards electricity. The All People's Congress [APC] left stable electricity and a lower tariff in this country. The Honourable Member from Kailahun said that there are solar mini grids all over the country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to make a specific reference Mr Speaker that the APC initiated the Rural Renewable Energy Project under Unops. For the records, between 2016 and 2017, 54 communities benefited and Three Hundred and Sixty Thousand residents benefited as well. To date, we have a total of 94 communities that have benefited from the UNOPS Projects and out of the 94 communities, the APC left 54 and this means, for comparative analysis, the Sierra Leone People's Party [SLPP] government has only provided 40. Mr Speaker, Honourable members, I do not want to talk about the challenges of the said Project with regards to roads. You also mentioned bridges, Magban and Moyamba Junction Road, I want to make it very clear that the former President, Ernest Bai Koroma commissioned those projects and by then, I was the lead advocate from Moyamba district. So, I was here when he contracted those roads and bridges to MSF until it was terminated and later on, it was contracted to CSC.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to take you to Page 5, Paragraph 32(3) and 34, under the Human Capital Development Index. Mr Speaker, under the Human Capital Development, I do not believe that, there was a proper research done on it. On the manifesto, it is human development, later, the capital came in, but, it was more or less on the primary and secondary schools. If we want to look at the national perspective to develop our human capital, considering the skill based approach, we should think beyond just primary and secondary approach and we should imitate the Singapore model. Today, their human capital strength is right at the top.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, how many doctors do we have out of the Eight Million population in Sierra Leone? Mr Speaker, how many dentists do we have? How many bone specialists do we have in Sierra Leone? How many eye specialists do we have? How many psychiatric doctors do we have in our beloved Sierra Leone? How many pathologists do we have? How many nurses do we have? If we are to measure the strength of our human capital within these seven years, we should boast of how many doctors that we have trained. Please Honourable Members, if we do not take this issue seriously, this is a Democratic dialogue.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Honourable Member! It is a difficult thing to swallow, but all of us must swallow it. Please, let us maintain the status quo that we have established. Listen, take note and respond later. Honourable Fatmata Bockarie from Bonthe, it is okay.

HON. ALPHA BEN MANSARAY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like I said, this is a democratic dialogue. We want to see the success of this nation. Like I was saying, if we cannot boast of the medical doctors that we have, a nation that wants to develop should think of having medical doctors at chieftdom level. All of us here who are representatives today, we know the challenges we are facing in our various constituencies, the challenges we faced with our nurses and our medical doctors. Mr Speaker just yesterday, we lost a pregnant woman. I want to thank my colleague Honourable from Moyamba district. We struggled to access the ambulance and even to ascertain whether the medical doctor was at Moyamba, it took us One hour to ascertain whether the medical doctor was at Moyamba. I am not condemning the human capital, but this is to remind us that we need to intensify and strengthen our skill based approach.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we have already identified areas that have oil and gas. It is only the foreigners that will come and take all our money, because we do not have the skills and we need to be mindful of this. Mr Speaker, Honourable members, I also want to talk about the challenges of approving existing schools. All of us who are representatives know that there are schools that have existed for so many years, but because of lack of structures and the pillars of the Free Quality Education, supervisors went to assess some of these schools. Some of them requested for goats, they requested for palm oil, they requested for school plan, wherein the villages do not have these plans. Up to date, most of the schools in our communities have not benefited from the Free Quality Education in the areas of subsidies. I want to appeal to the Minister of Education to review the structures in the Education Sector. How can you have one coordinator in one district regarding the Free Quality Education that does not have the resources to supervise? So, those pillars are very weak and we need to

strengthening that Mr Speaker. As I speak, in my district, there are so many schools that are not approved and we need to push for that. Mr Speaker, there are delays in the subsidies and operational challenges; we know the government is facing challenges base on the data. There are about Three Million school going pupils in this country, but the government are still paying about or around Two Million pupils. Subsidies delay can demotivate the performance of teachers. This is because, these teachers who are helping these communities to teach, the subsidies are not forthcoming to sustain their retention and then, we are talking about Free Quality Education. Data driving, we project the data but the realities are not there. So, I hope the Government will push hard for the subsidies.

Mr Speaker, Honourable members, I also want to talk about the alarming dropout of pupils in schools. I have an anonymous reference here. Mr Speaker, with your leave, perhaps the most distressing consequence of this failure is the alarming rise of dropouts rate amongst students. Many now faced the inability to re-sit the WASSCE even at their own expense. Consequently, over 150,000 students who are being disqualified by one or two subjects from entering the University. The chances to sit to these exams have been pushed to 2026 as entries for 2025 have already been closed. In our current economic climate, many of these students will struggle to afford the fees for private WASSCE exams. Mr Speaker, the idea of setting the cast assessment, that is the elimination method to reduce expenditure which is fine but let there be systems to ensure we do not miss these young girls. So what if there is a gap that says okay, you cannot take the exam this academic year but you have to take it next academic year. But by the time you sit to the exam again and fail the requirement to have the cast assessment to take the exams. So it has added more economic burden on parents to pay for the private WASSCE exam. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the teachers, like what the Honourable Member from Western urban said; he talked about the situation of teachers, the condition of the salaries being poor. I understand the intention to increase their salaries. In 2021, the Dollar rate was around 10,000 and more, but today, the Dollar is above 22,000. A bag of rice is One Thousand Leones and to take it to my

village at Samu or to take it to Bawah, it will cost you around One Hundred to Two Hundred Leones. How can these teachers survive? So if we really prioritize our expenditure and prioritize the actual human capital that we need to serve, let this free quality education do not be a political agenda. It should be a sustained agenda. It should be a continuous agenda. This is something we need to support Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You have 30 seconds.

HON. ALPHA BEN MANSARAY: Mr Speaker with your leave, I want to talk about the unfulfilled promises.

THE SPEAKER: I am not sure you have that time.

HON. ALPHA BEN MANSARAY: I thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me make a conclusion on that. Mr Speaker, I have to stop this debate. I will have an opportunity to have a press conference out of this debate and I will talk to the media with regards the unfulfilled promise. Thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I want to thank the Honourable Member for such a wonderful Presentation. Like I stated earlier in the debate, we have to keep our fact systematically and we have to take note of the other debaters. Like the Honourable said however, he did not note that, it is part of the WAEC system. It is used in Ghana, in Nigeria, Gambia and Sierra Leone. As part of the global principles, they are part of the WAEC global examination. We have to keep to the model of the House. So Honourable Member, I also encourage all of you when you make statements, let them be true statement. You must keep track of fact. On that note, I will give the Floor to the Honourable Hindolo M Gevao from Kailahun District.

HON. HINDOLO M GEVAO: I thank you Mr Speaker for given me the Floor to have my say on this debate. Mr Speaker, I want to use this opportunity to say thanks to my colleague Honourable Members who have taken their time to do what is expected of us in Parliament to do that is, to debate the Presidential Speech. Mr Speaker, I refer to this Speech as the State of the Union Address. It is this time that the President takes the opportunity to tell us as to what is happening in the country. Today, I will use this

opportunity to talk to us as Honourable Members, Sierra Leoneans, politicians, and stakeholders for us to ensure that the effort of His Excellency the President entreat us by ensuring that peace, unity, Justice and democracy prevailed. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it goes with this that President Bio is one of the most progressive Presidents in Africa. The best President Sierra Leone had ever produced. President Bio is a type of President who amidst all the challenges that he is being faced, he still continues to deliver. I will take Honourable Members to Page 14, the rubric which talks about the governance, human rights and justice reforms.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we acknowledge the fact that a government can only deliver excellently well when such a government performs under a peaceful atmosphere. The peaceful atmosphere is what we are here today to create the indulgence of our brothers, Sierra Leoneans to give His Excellency President Bio while he endeavors to deliver within his second term. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Government is continuity. During the reign of the President, his governance was tremendously interrupted to a point that if he was not a strong President, he would not have delivered on the things that he had promised to the People of Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we all could recall the unwarranted situation that occurred in August, 18th and the governance was actually distorted as a result of not adhering to the tenants of Democracy. Mr Speaker, barely Six or Seven months down the road, we had an attempted coup in which people that ought to hold the country together, were taped to be involved, because, they do not want us to see the legacy that the Government is about to leave for us. Today, if we are to succeed as a nation, let us allow democracy and democratic ternate to prevail. In any governance, we have the ruling Bench or party and we have the opposition party. If the opposition party decides not to give chance to the ruling party to deliver for the good of the nation, trust me, that disservice would not only be done to the party in governance, but it would be done to the nation and that is exactly what we are about to preach today. Let us allow this Government to govern and deliver on the promises made in its manifesto. We all

followed the treason trial and we all saw the conviction. Mr Speaker, demographically, we know what happened, where it came from and where people came.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker...*[Interruption]*

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: I do not know what you are standing on.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker...*[Interruption]*

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Do not tell me to sit down, just conduct yourself. If he is given the Floor, I will sit down. The Speaker has not given him the Floor. Let him be given the Floor, and then I will sit down.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Gevao hold on! Before I give the Floor to the Honourable Chief Whip of the Opposition, Honourable Sarty Kargbo, I want to remind you of Section 97. Your conduct within and outside this Well of Parliament should reflect the dignity and image of Parliament. Be guided! You did not raise a point of order. The point of order was raised by the leader. Honourable, go ahead sir. What is your point of order?

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand on S.O 34. The Honourable from Kailahun is not just a senior Member of Parliament and he is also a legal practitioner. What he is imputing into this debate, talking about regional configuration on a coup has a tendency of bringing disorder to this nation. People do not commit crimes based on their origin but they commit crimes based on what they want to do. It was not done on behalf of the people of a region. I do not expect such from him. Please, Honourable Member. Let us do not divide our nation based on such platform.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, point of order.

THE SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I am the Chief Whip of Government's Business.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Whip, I was reminded just now of S.O 34(2) and if am to go by S.O 34(2), I have to dispose of his point of order, before I will take another. So, you should allow me to dispose his point of order and then I will take yours.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Thank you sir. I will wait.

THE SPEAKER: Very well. Honourable Gevao, I want to remind you of S.O 36(1), S.O 36(5) and 32(6) as well. Please be guided!

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker, I am so guided.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Your time resumes now.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: I will be guided because you ask me to and I want to obey your words. But Mr Speaker, there are times; we need to clarify certain issues. When the Honourable Gevao was speaking, he did not mention region and he was talking under good governance and human right. So, I am sure his statement was in place. So that cannot be ruled out by the Opposition.

THE SPEAKER: His statement was in place until he introduced a subject that is in contravention with S.O 32(5) and S.O 36.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: I agree but he did not mention region. He did not mention anybody.

THE SPEAKER: I agree, that is why I did not make any response to that.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: It is a Point of Order that my colleague over there raised.

THE SPEAKER: I agree with you on that. As far as I was listening to him, I did not hear him made mention of region or regional configuration.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr. Speaker, if that is the case, can the Honourable Member withdraw his statement?

THE SPEAKER: No, I have made my ruling. If that is in the record, please expunge it from the record. From what I heard, he did not make mention of the word region or regional configuration.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Gevao, you can proceed.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Thank you Mr Speaker. I will reiterate that and being a lawyer, I am very mindful about national coalition and unity. I did not mention tribe and I did not mention region. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what I am trying to say, if we are to succeed as a nation, we must give democracy a chance. We go to elections; we vote our Members of Parliament and vote our President. But, if we cannot wait for their tenure to come to an end and we use surreptitious means to remove our Members of Parliament from Parliament and to overthrow the government to stop the progress and development in the process. How do you expect us to make steady progress in Sierra Leone? How do we make steady progress in Sierra Leone? Mr Speaker, I will go down to memories. Mr Speaker, I was in this country when the former president His Excellency Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma governed. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me be on record. In eleven years during his tenure, there was never an attempted coup. In eleven years, there was no interruption. There was never an interruption in Kailahun, Kenema, Bo or Moyamba wherein, people had to be killed or interrupted.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, now you have mentioned regionals and districts.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: There is no interruption in Freetown, wherein people had to lose their lives. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will refer this house to Page 1, Paragraph 11 of the President's Speech. This is where the President is thanking us Sierra Leoneans. I will read, I thank every citizens of this great nation who has remained committed to peace, despite attempts by a few to incite violence and fear. What will be the interest of leaders and politicians without a citizen to serve them? In the timeless words of Nelson Mandela, great anger and violence can never build a nation. Today, we are talking about the impact of human capital development in Sierra

Leone. We are talking about the impact of Feed Salon and the impact of electricity. We would have seen better impact if we would have had allowed this government to do its job steadily. That is why I am saying, President Julius Maada Bio will leave his presidency as one of the best that this nation has ever produced, irrespective of all of the challenges, irrespective of the bottlenecks that he has faced internally Mr Speaker, he still continues to deliver. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will take this House to the road and infrastructure development. Never have I seen road and infrastructure development in Sierra Leone as compared to what I am seeing under the Leadership of His Excellency, President Julius Maada Bio. In Paragraph Seven, this was what he said; "road infrastructure contract, economic centers and promote service delivery. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, he went on to highlight the roads that have been constructed and those that are under construction. Mr Speaker, Honourable members. Under 71, he says, projects like Manowa, Matru Jong, the Gedema bridge are ongoing with new projects such as; Subuya, Maselelo and Ferry and Bat Kanu.

THE SPEAKER: You should be rounding up now Honourable Member. You have one minute left! Hold on Honourable Member! At the back of the House, Honourable Simeon Johnny, P.C Member of Parliament, Honourable Fofanah, what is going on? I thank you Honourable Chief Whip.

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: I thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, anytime I stand up to debate, some people's body starts to itch. Mr Speaker, President Bio's actions on delivering on infrastructure development, is far better than any sitting presidents have ever done in this country. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank the President and also thank the Anti-Corruption Commission for a job well done. Mr Speaker, of all the high records that the Anti-Corruption Commission has been recording, it gave us the opportunity to increase our benchmark and hence, enable this country to qualify for the MCC compact.

THE SPEAKER: 30 seconds!

HON. HINDOLO M. GEVAO: Mr Speaker, before this government, corruption in Sierra Leone was the order of the day. I mean, all what we used to see was politicians

siphoning the monies of Sierra Leone and taking it to another country. Now in Sierra Leone, we have transparency. We run the country where the Anti-Corruption Commission is up to its tasks and as a result of that, we will be able to at least fund our budget by domestic revenue. Mr Speaker. I will never go beyond the time given to me Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Hindolo M. Gevao for your wonderful input in this particular debate. He spoke about democracy and democracy is challenged right across the world. It has become part of democratic norms now for people who do not win elections, to continue the denial of the result of the election. I thank you for your contribution and I will now give the Floor to the Honourable Papa Mohamed Bangura from Bombali District.

HON. MOHAMED PAPA. BANGURA: Thank you Mr Speaker for given me the Floor to have my say on this debate, I am Honourable Mohammed Papa Bangura from Bombali District. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today, we have an opportunity to speak to our people on these fine agreements. Mr Speaker, I will use this opportunity to speak to the masses, I will use this opportunity to speak to the grassroots, and I will use this opportunity to speak to Sierra Leoneans both home and abroad about these agreements. Mr Speaker, these documents that we are discussing or debating today, I want the Honourable Members from the other side to join me and let us compare the documents with reality on the ground. Mr Speaker, before I begin to look at the documents, I want to commend the Honourable Gevao for reminding Sierra Leone, for the painful act of this current Administration for removing 10 duly elected Members of Parliament by their people from different constituencies in 2018. Today, he was talking about the unlawful removal of Honourable Members and that is what exactly this House did in 2018. Today serves as a painful reminder for Honourable Sherriff Kuru's family. He was removed here and few days later, he died. May his soul rest in peace!

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I will continuously remind Honourable Members of their sacred duty to the people of Sierra Leone. When you swore to that oath, you swore to uphold the Constitution of Sierra Leone. Honourable Members, be mindful of

Section 78 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone and the final Abiter that will decide the election of Members of Parliament in the High Court. When the High Court decides on such matter, let it be taken because judicial precedent is part of the body of law. It is a source of law and it has become a law. I encourage you to proceed with your debate.

HON. MOHAMED PAPA BANGURA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, let me focus on the document. Mr Speaker, on Page 11, Paragraphs 95 and 96 respectively, His Excellency the President spoke on improvements and growth of the Economy and that the Economy has a growth rate of 4.0% and that it is larger than it was in 2018. Based on what the President said comparing the Economy to 2018 today Mr Speaker, the reality on the ground is that, Mama Baindu in Potoru cannot afford to buy a bag of rice. Comparing the Economy to that of 2018, the reality is that, Pa Sella Macombra cannot afford to buy a bag of rice and mammy Fatu cannot afford to buy a bag of rice and even the minimum wage owners cannot afford to buy a bag of rice. Like what other previous speaker said, the reality on the ground today Mr Speaker, you can greet people from Potoru in Goranma Mende, you can greet people from thonke, you can greet people from Senbehun malengohun, you can greet people everywhere in the south-east in this country, the only response that they will give you is S.O 2 Kayei God ma devui va which means, tel God tenki for life. That is the only thing they have to say. Mr Speaker, this is the reality that is on the ground. Mr Speaker, today, the economy is larger than it was in 2018. The level of hunger that the young people are going through has caused the reason why the Kenema boys are not happy and like Kenema boys, the Kailahun boys are not happy and like the Kenema boys, the Kono boys are not happy and like the Kono boys, the Bombali boys are not happy and like the Bombali boys, the Pujehun boys are not happy. The Western Area boys are not happy and the Bonthe boys are not happy. Mr Speaker Honourable Members, you cannot have a large Economy when this economy can take care of the people.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 32. Mr Speaker, I am from Pujehun, so when Pujehun is being mentioned, at least, I need to make a statement.

THE SPEAKER: 32 what?

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: 32[2].

THE SPEAKER: I will take you on S.O [34]

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Sorry 34. Mr Speaker, I am representing Pujehun district. Yesterday, I was just from Pujehun district. Let me put it to this House that our boys in Pujehun district are happy because of what this government is doing for them. Before now, there were no colleges in Pujehun district but today, we have colleges in Pujehun district. So we are happy, Honourable Members. And for the record, the Pujehun boys are happy, I do not know for Bombali boys, Bombali boys will never be happy as long it is SLPP in power. Thank you very much.

HON. MOHAMED PAPA BANGURA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Member owes an apology to the people of Pujehun District. In 2018, you were with the President telling the people of this country that a bag of rice at 250,000 is too much and that you can bring it down. Today, a Bag of rice is One Million Leones and it is more expensive in Pujehun because of road network. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to go to Page 10, Paragraphs 80, 81, and 82 respectively. His Excellency the President spoke about expansion and improvement in the communication of mobile networks. Mr Speaker, unfortunately, our people in Parlima, Sunbaya at koinadugu district and our people in San Marlene are still depending on heightening for network.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today, our people still depend on height in search of network. There are partial networks in those places and the President spoke about expansion and improvement of a mobile network across the country. Mr Speaker, even to make a call, all of us know how these mobile companies have robbed Sierra Leoneans with no apology and with no compensation. We have just passed a motion to see how best we can look into the tariff system. That justify the reality on the ground and what is written in this paper. I want to say Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the script writers have to be very much honest with His Excellency the President. Most of what they said and most of what they give to the President is deceptive.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to move to the third issue on this script which has to do with the infrastructure, which talked about road network. On Page [9], Paragraph [70], [71] and [72], His Excellency the President made mention of roads. He talked about the Manowa, Matru Jong, Gendema and of course kabaferi. Mr Speaker, what is happening with the road from Bombali to Karene? Sadly enough, as I speak, the bridge that connects Bombali and Karene has collapsed over six months and nobody is talking about it Mr Speaker. Is it not a disservice to the nation? And it is in this country Mr Speaker, we saw a bridge that connects between Moyamba and Bo districts collapsed and it was fixed in less than a month. What is happening with the people of Karene and Bombali? Are they not Sierra Leonean Mr Speaker?

HON. AHMED J KANU: Point of Order [34] Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I hate when Members in this Well, talk to the gallery. Mr Speaker, I want the Honourable Member to tell me the name of the bridge in Moyamba that was damaged and fix within a month. This is because; you have to substantiate some of those allegations, please. We are Honourable People and we have to be Honourable. I want the Honourable Member to tell us the village and the bridge that was destroyed between Moyamba and Bo that was fixed in one month.

HON. MOHAMED PAPA BANGURA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are all in this country and I refer you to the bridge that connects between Bo and Moyamba Junction. You go and do the research. Mr Speaker it was not fixed in one month but it was fixed in less than one month. It was a bridge between Gbama Songa.

HON. AHMED J. KANU: Mr Speaker, that bridge is still not fixed. In fact, it was not a bridge, it was a convert and as you speak, it is still not fixed. So you should not say it was fixed in one month. Let us stop deceiving the people of this country.

THE SPEAKER: I rule everybody out of order. Honourable Papa, proceed!

HON. MOHAMED PAPA BANGURA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to refer you to Page[4], Paragraph [27], where His Excellency the President talked about Feed Salone, which is a very key component of his manifesto. Today, the reality on the

ground seems to be like the Feed Salon is just a campaign slogan. Mr Speaker, you cannot feed Sierra Leone when Agriculture or farming is still left in the hands of the poorest of the poor, who depend in just an ordinary cutlass and hole. If we are serious about feed Sierra Leone, let us begin to see politicians and other people take the forefront. Let us see machinery way of agriculture. Let us see mechanized farming. *[Undertones]* That is what exactly we are doing. I have just completed harvesting 250 hectare of rice.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have thirty seconds.

HON. MOHAMED PAPA BANGURA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to refer Honourable Members to the part of job creation. Page 14, His Excellency the President talks about confidence in the Audit service; sadly enough today...*[interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: I am not sure you have time to make that point. The person next to speak is the Honourable from Angola town. Take note and you will continue from him. Honourable Mohamed Papa Bangura, your time is up. He will continue from that point. I see that, you are sharing a "gegba." So, you will give him your "gegba" and he will continue from that. I want to thank the Honourable Member for such an eloquent presentation and to remind him that, the issue of training farmers and setting up farming skills to improve on farming techniques have been an issue, from the Agenda for Change, Agenda for Prosperity and to the New Direction manifesto. So progressively, the government has been working on improving the skills of our farmers. We must also appreciate the fact that the continuity of governance is not betrothed at any point. It is a continuation and we must accept it. On that note Mr Speaker, I give the Floor to the Honourable Ahmed Joseph Kanu from the Western area.

HON. AHMED JOSEPH KANU: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank His Excellency, the President for honouring the constitutional provision of Section 84[3] of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No. 6 of 1991. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to go back to the words of the Honourable from Moyamba District who said that we have stable electricity during APC government. It is like a parable. Let me just

explain it in parable. It just like when your father leaves you in a rented apartment and they said you have inherited the apartment from your father.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, S.O [34].

THE SPEAKER: We cannot go to Kambia without going through waterloo. Be mindful.

HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA: Mr Speaker, he is my brother, I know he lives in Waterloo where there was no light. He does not have anything to do with light.

THE SPEAKER: I take that point.

HON. AHMED JOSEPH KANU: For the past Four years, we have at least 60% supply of electricity around Waterloo environment. Lorpan can now boast of at least 10% electricity and by the grace of God almighty, by 2025, we are going to boost the Western Region with 98% of electricity supply. You said there was no stable electricity but there was stable electricity during the reign of APC. Let me continue my debate. Page [3] paragraph [23], The President talks about food security and agriculture. For any country to develop economically, agriculture should be one of the key components.

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: Mr Speaker, point of order. Mr Speaker, initially, you made mention of the status quo as we started this morning. So we want our colleagues on the other side to allow the Honorable Member to debate peacefully.

THE SPEAKER: And if you continue to distract me, I will give him much time as possible.

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: Let me echo my voice to that Mr. Speaker. Please Honourable Members, this man is a very busy man and he is a student. Now that he has an opportunity to be here today, please let us allow him to speak.

THE SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader, I thank you for your intervention and for the records, if the clerks have taken note of the contribution of the Honourable Boston Munda, please expunge it from the record. Continue!

HON. AHMED J KANU: Page [3] on Paragraphs [23] and [24] respectively, with your leave Mr Speaker, Agriculture and Food Security is the corner stone of the nation's

stability and prosperity. We see how great nations invest in Agriculture. So if we could invest in Agriculture as a nation Sierra Leone, with the support of everybody and every leader being it in the position of Government Bench or opposition or being it Ministers, there must be a policy that for every member who wants to get a position within this nation, whether the Executive or Legislative, we must go into Agriculture. Another good advice is that, they should produce. For the Minister of Finance, Agriculture is time bound. Finances for Agriculture should be made available accurately and accordingly to the time of harvest and planting.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my next point will be on electricity. For us in the western region, especially the western area rural district, in 2012, we were promised One Hundred days electricity and that was not a reality. As it stands now, if you can go back to Waterloo, Tombo area, you can see the reality on the ground that the SLPP Government is ready to give the people of Waterloo, Tombo, Songo and every other area within the Western Area Rural district electricity. By 2025, that project will be in a reality form. Road Network is also another thing to talk about in Paragraph [70]. The President talks about Road Network. We are appealing for us at Waterloo. The Waterloo township roads, we need that road to be completed because if you go to Kabala and other areas, we have seen very good projects on roads. So we want our road project at the Waterloo Township to be completed. On Page [1], Paragraph [3].

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have one minute.

HON. AHMED J KANU: Page [1], Paragraph [3] with your leave Mr Speaker, Paragraph [3] talks about Governance and Politics through which intertwined, serve different purposes.

THE SPEAKER: And on that note?

HON. AHMED J KANU: Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member was disturbed over and over again. So, we want to appeal for more time Sir.

THE SPEAKER: I think I have given him sufficient time. On that note.....

HON. AHMED J KANU: On that note Mr Speaker, I implore on every one of us to work together and to see Sierra Leone as our nation and we must live as one people in one country. I thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. I give the floor to the Honourable Aruna P.S Larkoh. The man that removed the Honourable Hassan Sesay from this House, this House will not forgive you for taking away such a precious member but you have the Floor.

HON. ARUNA P.S LARKOH: Thank you Mr Speaker for catching my eyes. For the records, I am Honourable Aruna Papay Solomon Larkoh. I just want to join my brother from the Ruling Bench for calling the government to complete prominent roads within the Waterloo community and not only the Waterloo community, we also have major roads in our provincial headquarter towns. For example, like Makeni. I will also join my brother to urge the government to complete ongoing roads, especially the one leading to the government hospital in Dmakamara Road. These are very prominent roads. Also, he talks about electricity that the Western Rural area is enjoying electricity supply. I have been there for Eight years, since I left Wilberforce. Up till now, the Honourable Member from that area can attest to it that, those areas do not have electricity. The Western Rural district, starting from Hastings by the Waf going down to Devil Hole and other areas that you have named, they are all not connected to electricity.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I bring you greetings from the people of Tonkolili district and I also want to speak today, about the need for us to lower our temperature in discussing political issues. This is because, since yesterday to date, we have heard, I will not say rhetoric, but we have heard debaters saying things that I know, that are not factual and cannot be substantiated if you go through this document. I want us to focus on tangible political results. If we focused on tangible political result in this Well, as Honourable Members representing the people of this country, we will do well for our people. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the All People's Congress [APC] Honourable Members are not here to be declared as winners, but we are here to support the government and to contribute meaningfully to this debate despite our political

differences. I see this as a golden opportunity for us all as Honourable Members, to represent our people well, to talk on behalf of our people here. This is the time and this is the place that you should talk for your people. If you do not talk for the people that you are representing, it means, you do not have the love that the people have bestowed upon you. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, It is a good will of commitment to economic development and prosperity, if we can say things that are factual. I have taken time to go through this document. As our Mama of the House said yesterday, that this document is scanty and it is scanty because the President knew that this document is scanty... *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: She did not say so! What she said is that this document maybe scanty. Let me set the record straight. I was here and I heard what she said. She said this document maybe scanty according to some of you.

HON. ARUNA P.S LARKOH: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I want us all, to please note that, this government has taken the people of this country for granted, especially south- Easterners. They have taken our people from the south and east for granted. *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: I will not allow you to introduce a subject that the Honourable Whip of the Opposition has ruled out of order.

HON. ARUNA P.S LARKOH: Thank you. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, permit me to read page [11], paragraph [95] of this document which talks about the economy. Here in the document, our economy is now larger than it was in 2018 and we are on track for a 4.0% growth rate in 2024 driving by increase productivity in agriculture, mining and local manufacturing and services. Yes, no one could challenge the growth percentage of this document but we can challenge the reality on the ground. If you say there is an increase in growth and that increase should commensurate to the living standard of Sierra Leoneans. In 2018, the growth was around 3.5% and that was the era of the All People's Congress and during that time, I could tell this house that our people were satisfied. Our people could feed their homes. Household leaders were not in extreme pressure to take care of their homes but now that the economy is large,

everyone here including Honourable Members from the ruling bench would attest that, it is difficult for them. Even to access their various constituencies, some Members will take a month or two without visiting their constituencies because of the issues cycling around this larger economy.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Honourable Member! What is your point of order? I have stopped your time. Do not worry. Nobody is going to call Region or District.

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 34[2]. Mr Speaker, I am confident that all of us are Honourable Members and we do visit our constituencies.

THE SPEAKER: Can we limit ourselves to districts?

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: Yes, because he is making reference to constituencies whilst we are under the PR system. I am sure that all of us except otherwise do go to our district frequently and that is more the reason that we are here. So if you are making reference, maybe you can make reference to yourself but all of us do go to our districts as the case maybe.

HON ARUNA P.S LARKOH: Mr Speaker, I want to continue from where I stopped. I said with the larger economy for now, things are extremely difficult. The economy that was not large by then, people could afford food stuffs in their homes. Yesterday, when colleagues Honourable Members were juxtaposing the cost of rice in 2018 to now, the Speaker asked a question, where in the world that we have a stable cost of price of rice? Mr Speaker, it is compelling for us to compare the food stuff from 2018 to date. The reason being, in 2018 presidential debate, His Excellency the President; Dr Julius Maada Bio compared the price of rice from 2007 to that of 2018. He did that. So what is wrong if Honourable members from the Opposition bench compare the cost of food items, where we can now buy a bag of rice at 1.2million just in less than seven years?

THE SPEAKER: Sorry Honourable Member, what rice is 1.2?

HON. ARUNA P S LAKKOH: Jasmine rice Honourable Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Lakkoh, since when Adam was a boy, the prices of rice vary by quality and what you can afford. It is still the same and it will continue to be the same. So we must be mindful if we want to give the prices of rice, we should state the full-scale start from the highest to the lowest telling us what you can afford. So Honourable Member, you can continue.

HON. ARUNA P.S LARKOH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in the Presidential Debate of 2018, the President mentioned the highest cost of rice which was 200,000 Leones. So I am now using, in less than seven years, we are buying a bag of rice with the highest price of 1.2 million. We talked about larger economy, the global hunger index for Sierra Leone; we are 117 out of 127.

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]

THE SPEAKER: I will take Honourable Larkoh as the seconder. I know Honourable Papa wants to continue. Honourable Members, you should be rounding up by now.

HON. ARUNA P.S LARKOH: Mr Speaker, I take you to Page 8, Paragraph 62 of this document shows that we have invested in rural roads, bridges, markets and social infrastructure across Five regions to create safe farm, market channels, facilitate farm input delivery and ensure quicker access to medical and essential services. Here, when you go through the 2021 Presidential debates, the same paragraph was captured with a quote of communities, districts that, the government was working to improve roads. In this document, we only see roads constructed in five regions, no road mentioned and as Honourable Members, when you present documents here, we need detailed explanation because we need to know, in these five regions, which roads within the five regions that have been constructed to create these pathways. When the former President, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma was serious to ensure that we facilitate safe farms and market channels, he improved road conditions quickly. The ones from Kenema to Kailahun, was done under the leadership of President Ernest Bai Koroma...*[interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: On that note!

HON. ARUNA P.S LARKOH: The one from Bo to Gedenma, Lungi to Port Loko, all these roads were constructed by Ernest Bai Koroma to improve access to market facilities and to improve medical facilities. He procured and distributed ambulances to enhance quality health services. On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to conclude with a quote from this document. Mr Speaker, Page 20, Paragraph 78 say, return the wheel of governance. As I am concluding sir...*[interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your time is up. I am not sure you have time to make your quotation. I have said it before, if you do not have the opportunity to go through several documents in this country, you should take time to look at several documents presented by various leaders. You will realize that the issue of access to market, road construction has been an integral part of every manifesto in this country. Like you said, governance is continuity and it has been continuous and it will continue until we get there. On that note, I will give the floor to the Honourable Umu Pyne.

HON: UMU PYNE: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I stand here this afternoon, when I sat here on the 6th of August and my President, our President went through to this document, I was amazed. As a medical practitioner, I read through this documentary and I toed the line of my president regarding his vision on the National Health care. Paragraph [39] with your leave Mr Speaker, it talks about our commitment to affordable and quality healthcare alliance with the global call for universal health coverage, building on the successes for the past five years. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to focus on the primary Health care because I am from a village. I am representing my rural people. As they are sitting there in the village at Shenge, at Plantain, I know some of them are looking at me and they want to know whether *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: And you should follow the status quo. You should make reference to the Page and the Paragraph. Who is saying there is no page? What is your name?

HON. UMU PYNE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stated paragraph [39] Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, very well.

HON. UMU PYNE: Yes, I said that Mr Speaker. As I said Mr Speaker, I want to focus on primary health care and that is because, I want to toe the vision of my President on national health care. Most of the components of primary Health care are being answered to. They are in this document and most of them have been answered to. Some of them are ongoing and some of them are in progress and we will continue to do them. I start with immunization in paragraph [47]. You will note that, recently, the measles immunization has been given to children who are under the age of five in this country. Mr Speaker, Paragraph 47 tells us about the introduction of the first WHO approved Malaria vaccine. Mr Speaker, 1.7 Million doses of drugs available until 2025 and routing HPV vaccination for girls at the aged 10, has strengthened our health sector. So these components, like immunization as I have said, they have been out and the malaria vaccination is ongoing and in the case of our girls, because we want to protect them from cancer, the HPV vaccines will be given to them. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want you to know that, the reason why I making emphasis on this and focusing on the Primary Health Care is because, before 2018, we have only seven hundred and eighty eight Primary Health Cares in this country. That is from the WHO annual report 2017. But because my President cares for the nation's health, he has doubled it. From 2018 to now it is 100%. In the Ministry of Health, now we have 1,507 Primary Health Care in Sierra Leone. Just look, from 2018 to now, we have over 100%. Before 2018 we have 788 Primary Health Care, but now, we have 1,507 Primary Health Care. Is that not a good job, Mr Speaker, Honourable members? The reason I quoted these figures out for the country is because, I am coming from Moyamba district. Moyamba district is the hub of Primary Health Care. In Moyamba district, we have 108 Primary Health Care and I will actually bring it down to my chiefdoms. The Komboyah Chiefdom at Mbawuyah, the Ribbi Chiefdom at Bradford, the Bumpeh Chiefdom by Rotifunk, we have 26 PHCs.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this one has to do with infrastructure and when we talk about infrastructure, I want to bring it to your attention with your leave sir on Paragraph [44]; healthcare infrastructure investment has increased significantly. This is

exactly what I have said to you. From 788 to 1,507, it is a huge difference. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, our President also focused on human capital development. These infrastructures have not only be on paper but staffing has been a key product of what he has been doing. If we look at Paragraph [40], we have recruited 5,000 Health Care workers. My colleagues on the other side stated this morning that we lacked Doctors in this country. Just compare now, from 2018 to now, my President has employed 600 doctors in this country and that is human Capital Development. I also want to tell you the amount of staff that we have in those three chiefdoms.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Honourable Member, I have a point of order here. What is your Point of Order?

HON. ARUNA PS LAKKOH: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O [34]. Mr Speaker, I did not say we lacked Medical doctors. We do not have sufficient doctors. As it is now, we only have one Medical Doctor in Moyamba district and that is not sufficient for the population of so many thousands of people. That is the reason more I called on the government to intensify their effort to improve on human capital and deploy more medical doctors to that size of the population. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Honourable for making such a wonderful clarification. The truth is, his point is an honest point. We do not have sufficient doctors and the ratio of people is still inadequate but he should also acknowledge that it was not 600 before 2018. It was less than 350 before 2018. So if it is 600 now, I think it is a working progress and I think he must also commend that. Continue Honourable Member!

HON. UMU PYNE: Mr Speaker, thank you very much for that clarification. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to continue showering praises on my president and also the Minister of Health. They have done very well and also to the medical practitioners around in the Country. Currently, we have 31Community Health Officers and 33 nurses. Recently, nine nurses were giving pin code in three of those chiefdoms. I am referring to three chiefdoms out of the fourteen chiefdoms. So we have more than three chiefdoms that got pin code in Moyamba district. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if I

continue showering praises on my president for his vision toward the Health sector, I will not take my seat today. I cannot stand here without talking about Gender.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I like my President that is why I am referring you as Mr President. I want to thank all of my brothers and sisters that were in the fifth Parliament and together with Mr President. Without you, I should not have been standing here today. I just want to say that the 30% has made my sisters on the other side and I to be here today. This is laudable achievement that the Government ever in the history of Sierra Leone has made. Never in the history of Sierra Leone, can you see a woman standing like this addressing people. We were not much the last time but now; there are 42 female Members of Parliament. So Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to ask this House to please continue to vote in more women. Also to have more Bills that empowered female Members to Parliament to be approved.

THE SPEAKER: You have One and Half minutes to round up.

HON. UMU PYNE: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. So let me come back again to this Primary Health Care. In summary, we do have referrals and we have few ambulances in my district. I know that the government is trying very hard to add more ambulances or to repair them but I can stand here, I really want us to focus on repairing ambulances so we will have more ambulances in my area. This is because, some of us are coming from the rural areas, crossing rivers and some of the roads are not in good shape. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, like I said, we need more ambulances and our nurses are very happy and they are sending their appreciation for giving more pin codes to them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note, I want to say thank you, for given me the Floor to speak on behalf of my people in Moyamba district and my people of Rubi, Bumpe, Komboya Chiefdoms. I thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The people of Ribbi will be proud of you indeed. You have spoken like a true daughter of Ribbi and you are coming from Moyamba district, Kaiyamba

Chieftdom. You know, those who come from Moyamba will say, this is Yamba's place. On that note, I will call on the Honourable Cecilia Mabinty Bangura.

HON. CECILIA MABINTY BANGURA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise today to lend my voice to the discussion on the Speech delivered by His Excellency the President during the state opening of parliament on the 6th August, 2024. I am Honourable Cecilia Mabinty Bangura, representing the people of Karene district. It is our duty to rigorously scrutinize the action and policies of the government. We are here to ensure transparency, accountability and to advocate for the interest of our people.

THE SPEAKER: Is that your seat?

HON. CECILIA MABINTY BANGURA: It is imperative that we hold government accountable for its commitment and promises to the nation. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in paragraph [28] of his speech, the President emphasized on the strives made in the Agricultural Sector. However, our farmers are still struggling with inadequate access to resources, poor infrastructure, modern farming technique and market opportunities. The reality on the ground is far from the rosy picture therefore the government must take immediate and concert steps to provide our farmers with the necessary support to ensure food security and economic stability in the country. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, paragraph [72] of the President's speech, the President spoke on significant investment in the road infrastructure. Despite all these claims, many projects face delays in transparency issues. In resource allocation, the government must ensure timely completion for these activities across the country, not only in the urban area. Once again, I want to bring to the attention of this administration, the deplorable condition of the roads that link between Bombali district and Kamakwe, roads in Kamalo, Tambakah which are in Karene district are unconstructed. This is causing significant struggle for vehicular movements, passengers and goods. Constructing these roads is vital Mr Speaker especially for economic development, trade and commerce. Mr Speaker, Karene district is one of Sierra Leone's bread baskets. The people of Karene district and other regions are urging the President and the government to prioritize the completion of these ongoing projects and ensure

that new road construction meet the highest standard of quality and sustainability. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, whilst the President highlights the improvement in the healthcare sector in paragraph [45], the situation in our hospitals and clinics preached a different story.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, firstly, Bo, Kenema, Kono, Pujehun, Kailahun are not the only district headquarter towns in Sierra Leone for this administration to just focus on improving health care facilities. What about the other district headquarter towns such as, Makeni, Kamakwe, Port Loko, Kambia, Mongo, etc? Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are also issues of unstable electricity, causing the unnecessary loss of life for people surviving under oxygen. With these health facilities, there are shortage of essential drugs.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Honourable Member! Please Honourable Members from either side, allow the Honourable Lady to have her turn and let us enjoy the decorum of this House. Honourable, proceed!

HON. CECILIA MABINTY BANGURA: Thank you Mr Speaker. The promises of universal health care agreement are unfulfilled. And the most vulnerable in our society bear the brunt of health care .It is time for the government to prioritize and to start paying lip service to the Health care. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the mining sector mentioned in Paragraph [102] is the corner stone of our economy. However, I urge this administration to initiate robust reforms in the mining sector leveraging collaborating efforts with all stakeholders for the benefit of our community.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 35[3].

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member hold on! Yes sir.

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Members shall not read books, newspapers, letters or other documents in their places save such as relate to the business before Parliament. Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member from that side is reading from a note and we do not have the note with us. You are not a speaker. I rose on S.O 35[3]. Can you please allow the Speaker to rule?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, if you are reading from a book, please be mindful of the Standing Order.

HON. CECILIA MABINTY BANGURA: I am not reading. I am consulting my book.

THE SPEAKER: I have ruled and that is final. Honourable Cecilia Bangura, continue. Honourable Larkoh do not distract her. So continue to do your work.

HON. CECILIA MABINTY BANGURA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Many investors access our community with fake documents, maneuvering due process and policies in our community. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion, whilst the President highlights many investments and achievements, the reality for the people of Sierra Leone is far from the rosy picture painted. We will continue to hold this government accountable, ensuring that the reality in the document for the people of Sierra Leone will not be ignored. The people of Karene district are part of Sierra Leone as a whole. It is our duty to fight for a government that truly serves the interest of our People. I thank you.

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

THE SPEAKER: Point of Order is against whom?

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Mr Speaker, just to clarify.

THE SPEAKER: But there is nobody on the Floor.

HON. DICKSON ROGERS: Mr Speaker, the Point of Order is against the Honourable Lady that has just finished. The Honourable Member wants to make clarification.

THE SPEAKER: I have not given him the floor. I do not want his clarification. No point of order, no clarification. I now give the floor to the Honourable Emilia Loloh Tonga.

HON. EMILIA LOLOH TONGA: Honourable Members, before I start, I want to attack the Honourable Member on the other side who spoke about pads. Her Excellency, Madam President is a great woman and it is first ever in the history of this country for the past 60 years, after the departure of white man in this country, only Her Excellency took it right that girls must have pads during their menstruation. Some of us never had

that opportunity to use pad instead we were using a piece of cloth and I will bow my head for Her Excellency, for what she did for us. Also, we were talking about Rice.

THE SPEAKER: Order please! Honourable Member, do not worry, you are protected. I will protect every Member that rises and catches my eyes. I will not allow anybody to distract that Member.

HON. RUGIATU R. KANU: Yes Mr Speaker, I rise on S.O [34] to make a clarification.

THE SPEAKER: Very well.

HON. RUGIATU R. KANU: Yes Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when I was debating, I did not mention anything about sanitary pad [*Undertone*], so allow me to learn.

THE SPEAKER: Can you allow the Honourable Member to finish?

HON. RUGIATU .R. KANU: It was the Chairman of Education who brought the issue of sanitary pad and I addressed it for the edification of this noble House. You can give sanitary pads to the girls during their menstruation period, if they do not have the required wash facilities to take care of their dignity within the school settings, it will become very difficult. So I did not talk about the First Lady giving out sanitary pad to school girls, I spoke about maintaining the privacy of girls whilst they are on their menstruation period.

HON EMILIA LOLOH TONGI: Are you done? Okay. Anyway, the perception is there and those behind the screen understood exactly your message. Now let me come to Feed Salon. Listen. I think it is a shame to us here, because we have Sierra Leoneans in this Well of Parliament. It is high time we started saying to ourselves, let His Excellency finds his right to stop the importation of rice in this country. You want the white man to get into the swamps to do the job and bring clean rice for you and you think you cannot pay the price. This is high time now for us to stand up and say, we have fertile lands. We have the manpower, we have the head, we have water and we have everything for heaven sake and let us stop this thing. Let there be a change in this country.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, be taking us to the references.

HON. EMILIA LOLOH TONGI: I am responding actually to the gentleman.

THE SPEAKER: Oh, you are responding to issues. Okay.

HON. EMILIA LOLOH TONGI: I have not started and I do not want you to cut me off because I have 10 minutes Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Whenever I interrupt, I stop the time. Do not worry you are from Kailahun district so I give you priority.

HON. EMILIA LOLOH TONGI: Okay, so Feed Salone is in our hands here gentlemen. Let us make it a point of duty to change the narrative this time around. That is one thing and rice in Sierra Leone is the cheapest. You go to Guinea, it is seven hundred franc and that is; seven plus seven is fourteen and that is; one million, four hundred Leones in Conakry right now. I mean, let us make the research and you will say to yourself, I am happy to be a Sierra Leonean. Let us talk about electricity.

THE SPEAKER: I did not get that aspect. You said something about Conakry and rice.

HON. EMILIA LOLOH TONGI: I said 700 franc.

THE SPEAKER: What is 700 franc?

HON. EMILIA LOLOH TONGI: That is One Million Four Hundred Thousand Leones, the exchange of price.

THE SPEAKER: For a bag of rice?

HON. EMILIA LOLOH TONGI: Yes sir.

THE SPEAKER: Is it the highest price?

HON. EMILIA LOLOH TONGI: Yes sir. You can prove me right.

THE SPEAKER: Go ahead!

HON. EMILIA LOLOH TONGI: This the first time in His Excellency era, that we are no longer hearing S.O [2] light don kam. How many times have you heard from a distance S.O [2] Light don kam? For the past 5 years, when last did you hear that in

this country again? That is also another thing. There is also another thing we should talk about and that has to do with the anti-corruption. Anti- corruption has made Sierra Leone very famous in the world today. Everybody is talking about Anti-corruption. Then, corruption was normal thing. Let me tell you a story. I went to Zimbabwe, when I gave my speech, a Cameroonian also gave her speech and at the end of her speech, do you know what she said? "I would like Honourable Members and distinguished guest, to inform you that there should be enriching tribal in all means to have Ben-Kelfala in Africa.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here today to talk about His Excellency's Speech that was made on the 6th August, 2024. I am a representative from Kailahun district. Former independent candidate and I stand here today to clarify and to actually bring out the qualities of our country.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I want to stop you.

HON EMILIA LOLOH TONGI: Yes sir.

THE SPEAKER: I was giving an assignment when you made a pronouncement by the Honourable S.O.S, that I should fact check your numbers. You said the cost for a bag of rice in Guinea is 700 franc Guinea. Hold on sir, you cannot give a point of order.

HON. UMU PYNE: Mr Speaker, with all due respect Mr Speaker, I want to make something clear. I mean, Members of Parliament over there have been given you statistic and you have never checked. You see Mr Speaker, let us be fair to ourselves.

THE SPEAKER: Do you want me to finish or do you want me to leave like that?

HON. UMU PYNE: Go ahead Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The Honourable asked me to check. What is the conversion at international exchange of Franc Guinea to Sierra Leone Leones? It is 1,590.25. So it is above 1,400,000 that you stated. You can now continue.

HON. EMILIA LOLOH TONGI: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, you are disturbing me. I have heard three ladies so far from the other end. Honourable

Members, let us face reality and let us realize that God is watching. Last term, when I came to this Parliament, there were only seventeen female Members of Parliament here. Today, we have about forty one female Members of Parliament and I have not seen any lady coming up at least to recognize that on behalf of His Excellency. He made that possible. A lot of you girls who are here today, it is because of his excellent ideas that brought you here today. I am sorry if I say girls though. But the women who are here today, none of them stood up to say even thank you, let alone recognize it. It is not right. That is one thing I wanted the whole Well of Parliament to recognize. Secondly, let me come to Human Development and let me read something. We have recruited 5,000 healthcare workers which has increased the number of doctors to over 600 doctors and invested the capacity building to improve healthcare efficiency. Moreover, our partnership with Mercyship has provided 5,000 free surgeries to Sierra Leoneans. Other public and private projects are oncoming. Is it not beautiful? We should stand up and say the fact. Even though when you see black and white, you will still castigate and you will negatively talk about it. It is not right. This is not a debate. When you debate and castigate, you will bring out solution. But how can his Excellency use your know how to improve exactly what you are talking about? But you do not say anything. You just castigate. It is not right. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me talk about road infrastructure development. I will always in my entire life until death do us part, continue to praise His Excellency. For the past 60 years, Kailahun, Kenema to Buedu, the city where I came from Kissi Chiefdom, was abandoned because of that Road, the whole Kissi Chiefdom was APC. We accepted it the simply because of that road. It never happened and because His Excellency's idea. He came and constructed that road. Even though it has not been completed but by next year, you will meet a plain road. So you see how wonderful this President is. Mostly, when things are happening, you see them and you do not say anything about it, which is very, very wrong. We need to give honour to whom honour is due. Let us now talk about Gender equality and women's empowerment.

THE SPEAKER: You should be rounding up by now.

HON. EMILIA LOLOH TONGI: Okay. We should be happy with the gender equality and women's empowerment we have in Sierra Leone and it is not only for us, but for our children. This era has barricaded our kids. A lot of girls have been enrolled in schools and a lot of them are doing so well. In fact in WASSCE, a girl came first. If it was not because of the existence of Hands off our girls, if it was not because of the trend of Earlier Marriage which instilled fear in most men to touch people's girls, we would not have got this result. So I really want to thank His Excellency for being our President and for having the First Lady even though her job is situated to be a first lady but she has turned her position into a profession that suits her so much and she has done so much for this country, even the external World is compassionate for her good job.

THE SPEAKER: And on that note.

HON EMILIA LOLOH TONGA: Her good works have made other countries to imitate the policy of Sierra Leone. I think ten minutes is just too small for a wonderful speech like this to be debated. So on that note, I thank His Excellency and God bless you Mr President. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much the Honourable Member from Kailahun district. Do you have a Point Of Order? Point of Order against whom?

HON ALPHA PS MANSARAY: The Honourable from Kailahun.

THE SPEAKER: What did she say that was mentioned or referred to you?

HON. ALPHA PS MANSARAY: She said, I was criticizing that there are not enough medical doctors.

THE SPEAKER: You have clarified that already.

HON. ALPHA PS MANSARAY: Yes, but I still want her to know something. She repeatedly said it Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I have spoken on that and I have ruled.

HON. ALPHA PS MANSARAY: So let her toe that line.

THE SPEAKER: The cue is, I have said it. I think it was Honourable Umu Pyne that said that. We have passed that.

HON. ALPHA PS MANSARAY: Thank you Mr Speaker. I will now give the floor to the Honourable Hawa Conteh.

HON. HAWA CONTEH: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me first of all commend His Excellency, the President for delivering his address at the State Opening on the 6th August, 2024. I also thank you, Mr Speaker, for allowing me to participate in this debate. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will focus my contribution on three main aspects in this address. Namely; The Feed Salon Project, the Energy issue and also the Education sector. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I firmly agreed with His Excellency, the President in Paragraph [24] of His Address that; without the ability to feed our people, we create open doors for unrest and conflict. Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, the peace of a nation will always be unstable if food security is not addressed properly. On this matter Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President is making a very key factor that is key in the Feed Salon project and that is the construction of the Feeder roads. His Excellency, the President said in point [29] of his speech that, only 35kilometers of Feeder roads were constructed in the whole year. Can you imagine that? This means that in five years, we can at most, construct 175 kilometers of Feeder roads, which may not even be the case.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, do you say on Paragraph [29]?

HON. HAWA CONTEH: Yes Mr. Speaker. On Paragraph [29]...*[interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: I cannot see that in Paragraph [29]. Are you talking about Paragraph [29]?

HON. HAWA CONTEH: Paragraph [29] Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I am lost, I cannot find that.

HON. HAWA CONTEH: This means that in five years, we can at most construct only 175kilometers of Feeder roads.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your minutes have to add up before I take them. I cannot find that on Paragraph [29].

HON. HAWA CONTEH: Paragraph [29] roman figures six. It is there Mr Speaker. Page [4] paragraph [29].

HON. ABDUL K KAMARA: Mr Speaker, it is not there. Mr Speaker, can I read Paragraph [29]?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member.....

HON. HAWA CONTEH: Yes Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I have seen it.

HON. DICKSON M ROGERS: Mr Speaker, she is not only a woman, she is also a Conteh. Please take note.

THE SPEAKER: I have seen it and what the President said, it was not that 35 kilometer was constructed in the whole year, he said in addition to the other things that were done under that particular rubric, 35 kilometers roads were also constructed.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, please allow her to interpret the speech as she read it and do not help her in interpreting it.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Hawa Conteh, you have the Floor.

HON. HAWA CONTEH: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me state here that, without comfortable access to places where the actual farmers are, we will not be able to produce the food that we need. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I mean actual practicing farmers and not political farmers. I will come to that soon. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my district; Koinadugu can boast of thousands of these actual farmers who live in places where even a motorbike cannot access easily and I am not sure if the Feed Salon project cares about that. I want Mr President to accept that, without these Feeder roads to places where the actual farmers are, like; Karsongo, Dyam, Wara wara Bafodia, Sembeh, Yiphin, there will be no motivation for large scale farming. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to read a quotation

that was made by a PhD researcher from the University of Birmingham , he stated that; “road infrastructure and its related provisions of safe, reliable and affordable transport services in rural areas, has the potential to bring about socio-economic development, reduce poverty and hunger and also increase food security”. If this government does not concentrate on constructing Feeder road as a priority to food security, it will be difficult to feed Sierra Leone. Unfortunately Mr Speaker, even the main road from Makeni to Kabala, is now a death trap and let alone to talk about the important these Feeder roads which I am talking about. Let me state this here. If the Makeni and Kabala road for instance, is not constructed, the people of Koinadugu and Fabala, will not benefit from the Feed Salone project and without Koinadugu and Falaba, there will be no Feed Salone project. This is because, Koinadugu and Falaba, are key districts in Sierra Leone when it comes to Agriculture. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I keep referring to two different types of farmers which are; the actual practicing farmers and the political farmers. I think this is very important for Mr President to address most of the support towards the Feed Salone Agenda which goes to politically motivated people or group of people who are not really actual farmers. They get receipts, they get the fertilizers.

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

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Honourable! The Honourable Lady, please take your seat.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, this is not a child’s play and this is not politics. When we were in the Well, we are talking to the nation and therefore, any allegation that we make here, should be justifiable. I want the Honourable Member to tell us who are the political farmers that are benefiting from this. *[Interruption]* No, please, we have to justify our allegations. She said, only political farmers are benefiting from the Feed Salone. I want her to tell this House, who are the Political farmers that are benefiting from the Feed Salone? Thank you Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Let me follow S.O 34[2]. Firstly, let me state that, she is not wrong.

HON DICKSON M ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I am not saying that she is wrong; I just want her to clarify something.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on! When President Bio took over in 2018, he made a clarion call that, everybody that wants to take part in politics, should own a farm. So those people that were politicians before and that are politicians now that have gone into farming, I am sure she is referring to them as political farmers and they are doing well. Hold on Chief Whip! They are doing well. Just take a look at the Honourable Nyapoli Koroma's farm, I have seen the Chief Minister, harvesting a huge acre of farm, I have seen the President, harvesting the biggest fish harvest in this country. All of those are politicians.

HON. SINEON T JOHNNY: Mr. Speaker the President has achieved a lot of gains in the Health Sector. That is the reason why today, we are exporting health workers to other countries....for example Rwanda as we speak here; our health PR actioners from Sierra Leone, they are helping people in Rwanda to find the Major, the average that they have got. Imagine ever since in the History of this country, it is under President Bio that you have started exporting Health Workers *[Applause]* we all know, when there was fire disaster in the Republic of Guinea, we also have to export health workers and you are sitting here and saying the President has not done anything.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, When Guinean Head of State, delegations here to come and thank the people of Sierra Leone for rescuing them when they had that the fire disaster, there was no proper know-how for them but the Sierra Leoneans who went there, they achieved a lot and they rescued the people from going to early death Mr Speaker *[Applause]*.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when there was also a fire outbreak in the Republic of Liberia, Sierra Leoneans experts where sent there to see how they can rescue them and it was on that note that the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia Jeremiah came to Sierra Leone to thank the President and the people of Sierra Leone for sending health workers to rescue them and I believe very soon and pretty soon, Paul Kagame also is going to send delegation here to see how they can thank us *[Applause]*.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I am worried my son does not have water and he is shouting for health reason *[Laughter]* do you have water with you? *[Undertone]* okay.

HON. SEMEON T JOHNNY: Thank you very much Papa for that concern. Mr Speaker let me bring to your attention, when my sister from Kerene was talking about how they are just limited health facilities to the people of the South-east; you know it is due to lack of proper research on the side of many of us but if we do our research, we will not be making those blind allegations. I am in possession of a document from the Deputy DMO, now they want to electrify eight Government hospitals across the country including Port Loko Government hospital, Kambia Government hospital is also included so that when they are performing critical operations, there will be nothing like S.O 2 "light don go."

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, wait this is very serious...what the Honourable Member was alluding to what is happening *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: Are you cutting him off or you are standing on a Point of Order?

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: No, I am standing on a Point of Order to correct the Honourable Member.

THE SPEAKER: What is your Point of Order?

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: SO 34.....

THE SPEAKER: Very well.....

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: This is clear; you are talking about what the Deputy DMO said they are going to do, he is reporting of what is happening currently. I think these are two different things.

THE SPEAKER: The matter of this and was *[Undertone]* is okay Chief Whip. What I want you to know is, you should wait let me dispose of one and I will consider whether I am going to take another...yes there is time but I am a very good referee, I manage

time well. So the Honourable Simeon Johnny [*Undertone*] no he does not have one minute sir.....he has lost his S.O 2 "gegba."

HON. DICKSON .M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker before the Honourable Johnny continue Mr Speaker.....

THE SPEAKER: Yes Sir....

HON. DICKSON .M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I am not too happy with the trend of referee in this afternoon because I can vividly remembered, Honourable Sellu has got up over two times to make clarification, he has been turn down and for every time Honourable AKK get up to make clarification he do.

THE SPEAKER: It is the same with you Sir....

HON. DICKSON .M. ROGERS: Yeah because Mr Speaker I am the Chief Whip

THE SPEAKER: And it is the same with him, he is the Chief Whip of the Opposition.

HON. DICKSON .M. ROGERS: No, no but I am not making clarification, the Honourable wanted to make clarification for two times and he was turned down.

THE SPEAKER: But the Standing Orders guide us through the debate and I have to go by the Standing Order. The Standing Order S.O 34 on which Members are standing stipulate that when once I disposed of one Point of Order, it is my discretion to take another or to allow the Member that has the Floor to continue.

HON. DICKSON .M. ROGERS: I agree, I agree Mr Speaker, even when some Members are still speaking, the Honourable Members will get up to make clarifications. I am pleading that please consider us to be making some clarifications when once matters are ready for clarification. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: And I do allow you, Honourable Sellu I gave him the Floor twice yesterday on the Point of Order, I think I have given it to the Honourable Williams-Lamin, I given it to every Member that have stood up to attract my attention. The Honourable Deputy Whip wanted to clarify but I made the clarification because I was here, so I think the refereeing is fair.

HON. DICKSON .M. ROGERS: What about the Honourable from Kono Mr Speaker?

THE SPEAKER: The Honourable from Kono was making a Point of Order and nobody was on the Floor, the Floor was empty.

HON. DICKSON .M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, as a referee you should be guiding us.

THE SPEAKER: There is no foul outside of the pitch, when once the ball is outside of the pitch there is no foul so you wanted to make a Point of Order when the players are out of the pitch so I could not tolerate it; the only player in the pitch at the time was the referee.

HON. DICKSON .M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker I concede, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Chief Whip. The Honourable Simeon Johnny is connected to the Limbas.

HON. SIMEON T. JOHNNY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I am in possession of a document *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: Hold on, the Chief Whip is still on his legs.

HON. DICKSON .M. ROGERS: We have seen outside the pitch, we have seen that; thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: That was a rule two years ago and they cancelled it quickly because they knew it was wrong; go ahead.

HON. SIMEON T. JOHNNY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as I speak to you, I am in possession of a document. This was certified here in this Well, an agreement between the Government of Sierra Leone and that of the Government of Saudi Arabia to construct and equipped a referral hospital in Mr Speaker, Port Loko, neither in Kono nor in Moyamba, but in Port Loko. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot have been said about the Feed Salone program, what has been done at Tormabun. I was trained by Dr Chakanda as a seed specialist so I know what I am talking about' Mr Speaker, if we are talking about sustainable agriculture, we need to put the structures in place. That is why when you go to Tormabun today, a

contract was awarded for a system to produce 6000 hectares of rice, not only on annual basis but on quarterly basis. If you go there now an integrated millet machine has been installed and they are now trying to get the generators to put in place so that we can see the rice in Tormabun hitting the market; so you cannot just sit here and begin to talk about Tormabun when you do not have sufficient evidence to justify your claims.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when the tallest MP from Tonkolili yesterday was making his allegations that His Excellency the President is flying, the President is flying. I said yes!... *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: Can you accordingly invoke S.O [2]?

HON. SIMEON T. JOHNNY: Yes S.O [2] a Kono man will say a bird that usually moves around always bring palatable fruit and you are asking what has the flying of the President brought into this country? Have you forgotten that just few weeks ago, we were here to ratify the agreement between Sierra Leone and that of the United State of America \$480,000,000. When we were asked to develop the component project, we all know the obstacles, we all know how this issue was irritating people; it has to take the negotiating power of his Excellency, the man who negotiated with Foday Sankoh and brought him out of the bush, he has to travelled to Washington and engaged the American Government and explained to them that we need this thing. No sooner he left the shores of United States of America; we heard that the American Government is going to give us this thing. Have you forgotten that first in the history; just this August Sierra Leone was the President for the all great Security Council *[Applause]* when a friend of mine from Uganda was telling me that indeed we are very much pleased with your President. today if you go to East Africa, they are talking about how they can get a permanent seat in the United Nations; Nigerians are lobbying, Egypt are lobbying, other places are lobbying, is not because of the flying of the President that have accorded Africa, you are benefitting today and you are now talking that the President is flying, have you forgotten that His Excellency the President, you know during this flying have attracted donors? *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Honourable Member, I have a Point of Order. What Order are you standing on?

HON. FATMATA B. BOCKARIE: SO 34 [2]. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable from Kono is making salient point and the TV is off and the public is there to listen to know what we are saying here. So on that notes I want this camera to come on please, thank you *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: It has not been on since this morning.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I think I want to support my Lady on this. We are not Members of Parliament because we represent people, we are Members of Parliament because our people want to hear our voices and most time they will say S.O[2] Wetin una dae do na Parliament because they are not preview and we are the very people ratifying the budget of SLBC. I am sure before this debate you asked SLBC to be here and to hear us live; it is no crime for doing that for five days, it is no crime. We are representing people who do not know we even exist and we are debating, can you imagine we debated and approved the Finance Act last year, 2024 Finance Act in November and it was this year that it became topical by our people because they are cut off completely and we are spending money as a country on SLBC; they should do us the services.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Whip of the Opposition and Honourable Fatmata Bintu Bockarie, I want to take time to refer to both of you yesterday SLBC and AYV reliably informed us that they are not covering for two days; they have this International Conference on Energy. We have been talking about Energy and we have seen massive mobilization by the Office of Presidential Initiative to bring in investors to help us to strengthen our energy infrastructure that is also as important as the business of this House. What I will say is we have the Press Gallery and I am sure they are doing very well, they are making sure that whatever is debated in this House is convened to the General populace because we have 98.1 reporting on Parliamentary Affairs, we have AYV, we have a number of other Media Houses and we have the Ovid Parliamentary Specialist who is most times on Epic and other Radio and TV platforms educating the

public on Parliamentary Affairs so I will want to continue to apologize on their behalf and I am sure by tomorrow AYV and SLBC will be here to cover the House live and those who will be fortunate to speak from tomorrow till the end will be seen by their people, those who have spoken will bear with us and their messages will be carried by the various media houses present. On that note Honourable Siemon Johnny I will give you the Floor, but I will tell you that you have one minute fifteen seconds.

HON. SIMEON T. JOHNNY: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, I was still diving on the achievement that this country has benefited from the flying of the President. I think Magburuka Government Secondary School where our inlaw the former President Ernest Bai Koroma attended, we all knew the status of Magboruka Secondary School few years ago. It is only out of this flying of the President that we are now seeing a robust refurbishment of that School so that it can be uplifted; this is what we are benefitting since Sir Milton Margai was constructed, some forty years ago if you go there now, you would be surprised to know if that is Sir Milton Margai. So Mr Speaker, I have a lot of things to bring out to this House which this country had benefitted from the flying of the President. Due to the exigency of time, I will limit and I will also call for a press conference to explain to my people what this President has done and what he is doing for the people of Sierra Leone. Having said that God bless Sierra Leone and God bless His Excellency the President Dr Julius Maada Bio, and God bless us all *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Please all those Members that wished to call a press conference please inform us accordingly, so that we can make the spaces available. Maybe you would want to use Committee Room 1 and there could be another Honourable Member who would also want to use Committee Room 1. In order to avoid collusion, please inform the leadership. Thank you very much the Honourable Siemon T Johnny for letting us know that Sierra Leone is now exporting Medical Practitioners; it is an important detail and we will thank him for such a wonderful presentation. We now give the Floor to Honourable Mohamed Sherrif Kargbo.

HON. MOHAMED S. KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you for given me the opportunity to add my voice on this important debatel. I also want

to thank His Excellency the President for reading his Address to the nation. In my opinion, he did not write the Speech by himself, it was written for him. Mr Speaker I crave your indulgence to protect me Sir. Mr Speaker, I want to refer Honourable Members to S.O 35. Mr Speaker, you know what I am talking about.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, when the Honourable Simeon T. Johnny was making his submission, he started by saying that the Government has been working on the Tomabun for Seven years now. Mr Speaker, I just want to ask him, if Government has been working on Tormabun for Seven years now, how many years more do we need in order to benefit from the Tomabun Project *[Interruption]*?

THE SPEAKER: The Honourable Sia Mahawa Habiamia Tommy can you please relocate!

HON. MOHAMED S. KARGBO: Allow me to make my submissions please. Mr Speaker I want to deviate a bit, I want to bring our attentions to this, I want to talk about sincerity in this House and the entire country. Mr Speaker, there is a lack in sincerity in what we say and what we do and if we are not sincere to the people that we represent and the people that we govern in this country, all the efforts that have been put together to achieve the success of this country will put a spanner in a spider's web *[Applause]*. I want to leave that as food for thought perhaps as I go on.

Mr Speaker we all know that the boosting of the economy of this country is not coming from the investment of Agriculture alone. In other words, our investment in Agriculture for this country is not enough for us to be able to boost the Economy of our country. So, Government needs diversification for us to be able to boost the Economy of our country. Mr Speaker, may I be protected because this is not an undertone, but it...*[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: I did not hear that Honourable Member. You are protected! you are surrounded by your colleagues and Honourable Alpha Jalloh is close to you, Honourable Bash Kamara is also your colleague.

HON. MOHAMED S. KARGBO: The President confirmed in His Address, 2018. Mr Speaker, with your leave... *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: It is Honourable Alpha Jalloh disturbing you; he gives you the wrong “geygba.”

HON. MOHAMED S. KARGBO: I beg for your leave Mr Speaker for me to read If you go to Page 2 and Paragraph 3 Mr Speaker, I do not want to waste time, I will not read it, but just make reference of it. *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you should employ another service; employ the services of Honourable Omsan Abdel Timbo.

HON. MOHAMED S. KARGBO: I will refer you to Page 2, Paragraph 3 where the President confirms what I am talking about that that Agriculture is not enough for us to be able to boost the Economy of our country. Mr Speaker, we need to diversify the Economy in order to be able to achieve the boosting of our Economy. Mr Speaker, in my last debate, I talked about Mali as one of the landlocked countries that do not have sea port. Even without sea port Mali is doing business with four main countries in the sub-region. Therefore, Mali is doing very well. It is stated that half of Mali’s fiat goes to four countries that is Sengal, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Guinea *[Interruption]*.

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: Point of Order Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: What is your Point of Order? Hold on Honourable Member.

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 34[2]

THE SPEAKER: Okay!

HON. BOSTON MUNDA: We are discussing the Presidential Speech here, so I want to draw the attention of colleague to give us the page where he is because we are just hearing Zimbabwe. We do not know what is happening in Mali, so I want my colleague to take us to a page or pages of our debate. We cannot deviate from what we are doing or discussing this Morning.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Member. Honourable Kargbo go ahead!

HON. MOHAMED S. KARGBO: I said President has confirmed it in 2018 in his addressed in Paragraph 3 page 2 *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: 2018 is not before us Honourable Member....

HON. MOHAMED S. KARGBO: Well if you permit me to read I will read. I have it here Mr Speaker, I am just referencing because of time, and you can go there and read Page 2, Paragraph 3 of 2018 Speech.

THE SPEAKER: Go ahead Honourable Member!

HON. MOHAMED S. KARGBO: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Please Mr Speaker, invoke S.O 35, so that this is very important for this nation, I am debating I am talking to the people of Sierra Leone right now; if I want to debate I will debate, so please allow me *[Applause]* so Mr Speaker as I was saying, Mali is doing business with four countries in the sub-region and half of their fiat goes to these four countries and like I said Mali has not got an International sea-port because they are one of the landlocked countries, but Sierra Leone is not having the opportunity to use agriculture to boost our economy vastly, one of the quickest ways to boost our Economy is to leverage that opportunity that we have in doing business with Mali. If we decide to construct our roads more especially the Madina-Rural kamakwei road or the Kamakwei Madina-rual Road that is shorter to Mali than all these four countries that I have named; Mali will come to do business with us rather than going to those four countries. So all the fait that is going to those four countries will come to Sierra Leone; so imagine how our economy will be boosted *[Applause]*

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, last time I gave these analysis but perhaps because it was coming from me as part of the Opposition, Government did not take it into consideration and I want to draw your attention from the plead that was made by the Leader of Government Business that he wanted this debate this time and as we debate to proffer solutions. I also want to request him, the Leader of Government Business

that as we proffer solutions, I also request to him to make sure that Government considers this solutions that we are proffering, so that we do not just talk because of talking sake, or debate because of debate sake. So I will want to see at the end of the day *[Interruption]*

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Point of Order 34

THE SPEAKER: We have a Point of Order Honourable Member...

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker I am stepping in for the Leader of Government Business. Mr Speaker in as much as we like Government to take his suggestion but Mr Speaker we cannot make road between us and Mali because we are not even sharing border so how can we take such a recommendation? Can you please tell us where we can construct the road?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, let me stick with the principle of S.O 34, let me dispose of the Point of Order and give the Floor to the Honourable Member that was speaking. We have a meeting in Gondama, that is a Port and the road between Niti to Falaba is shorter to Guinea and connect Mali than the road from Senegal to Mali. So what he is saying is that Government should look for an investor to expand the Port of Niti, so we can redirect the landlocked importation of Mali to Sierra Leone which is shorter to Mali than Senegal; so I think that is his point. So on that understanding, the Member of Parliament can you please continue....

HON. MOHAMED S. KARGBO: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I am proffering a solution and what I was talking about is already a naturally profound solution to Government because by nature God had already placed Mali that is not having universal sea port. So if Sierra Leone is the closest port to Mali and the Mali would therefore want to come to us but because the roads are dilapidated, the roads are not in condition they will not come. So if our Economy is to be boosted. How do we go about it, when the roads are not in good conditions? I want to refer us to the Speech of the President when he said we should detach politics from administration. I want to support President 100% on that, that in administration after politics we put politics aside, if we import

politics into our administration, we will always fail. I refer you to Page 2, Paragraph 3 with your leave I read *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: Paragraph 3 is on the first page?

HON. MOHAMED S. KARGBO: Yes!

THE SPEAKER: Is it Page One? You have one more minute.

HON. MOHAMED S. KARGBO: That is page two where President says "Governance and politics though intertwined they served different purposes. Politics is the pathway to governance, it is the spirited dance to democracy yet once elections are behind us we must embrace governance with a singular focus. If we allow politics to overshadow governance we fail, not only as politicians but also as custodians of our nation."

Mr Speaker, the President is sincere enough in writing this that is why I started off by saying we have to be sincere in whatever we do in this country; so this is Politics. So Mr Speaker I am calling on Government not to politicizes, the Kamakwei Madina-Rual road, if Government continues the construction of the Kamakwei Madina-Rual road, it will help boost our economy because it leads us to Mali; is not a construction from Sierra Leone to Mali but it is a construction from Sierra Leone to the border and Guinea and Mali will have access us through Conakry. *[Interruption]*.

THE SPEAKER: And on that note....

HON. MOHAMED S. KARGBO: On that note Mr Speaker, I want to encourage this Government, so I am calling on Government to please continue with the construction of the Kamakwei Road *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Member, I will want to comfort you with this particular statement. I believe and very so that Pavi Fort have worked on Financing Agreement with Alfrozen Bank and that road is the concentration of the financing because he sees a lot of opportunity on that road and he want to tap those opportunities and I we will also have an agreement that will come to this House for the expansion of that port so that he will manage the port and he will construct the road

[Applause] [Undertone] yes it goes through Falaba so that will comfort you do not worry, we are going to leverage on that economic opportunity and we are going to boost this country's economy. I will give the Floor to Honourable Abdulai Kamara *[Undertone]* oh is best man *[Undertone]* the nice man is from Kanigo, the best man is from Angola town.

HON. ABDULAI KAMARA: Wilberforce to be precise

THE SPEAKER: Are you residing at Wilberforce?

HON. ABDULAI KAMARA: Yes Sir

THE SPEAKER: But I have seen your vehicle at Angola Town

HON. ABDULAI KAMARA: Yes, I have got some business there sir, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Very well Mr Best Man *[Laughter]*.

HON. ABDULAI KAMARA: Thank you Sir *[Laughter]*. Thank you so very much Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to add my voice to this debate. Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I am Abdulai Kamara commonly called Honourable Best Man representing the Western Area to be presides Wilberforce and its environs *[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: You are not representing Wilberforce, you are representing Western Area Urban; all of us. So you should be coming to us yourself, Honourable Abdel Timbo, Honourable Nice guy, we have to seat together and plan Western Area.

HON. ABDULAI KAMARA: Alright, so true Sir. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, reflecting on the debate thus far, I want to start by saying that the State Opening of Parliament is an important part of governance system and it is so important that Members of this House must pay keen attention to His Excellency's Presentation. The reason for such is that, is at such a time the President will have the opportunity to deliver or to present his stewardship to the entire nation and if that is the case Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Presentation that is going to be made by His Excellency must be done with honesty and sincerity *[Applause]* and also even Honourable Members that are going to debate the Presidential Address must make sure

it is done with honesty and sincerity because our business here is to represent our people and if such is not done then we need an apology to the people we represent.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, on that note, one will want to ask a question as to whether the last Presidential presentation which was done on the 6th of August 2024, whether it was done with honesty and sincerity...yes, fantastic, alright *[Undertone]* thank you so very much my darling. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if we turn to Page 3 Paragraph 23-27 it states that; "Agriculture and Food Security are the corner stone of a nation's stability and prosperity. It further stated that, they form a crucial pillar of nation resilience to economic growth and development". I think this is fantastic, if those facts are true or if those statements are correct then this allows me or us to turn over or look into the WFP Report 2024 which revealed that 68% of household spending amount to 75% of total expenditure on food; I hope you are taking note? *[Undertone]* thank you. 82% of Sierra Leoneans are food insecure 18% of household are severely food insecure.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, due to Sierra Leone food insecurity, malnutrition rate is now at 26%. So if we reflect on what has just been said, it tells us that with all the huge investment, with all the millions of dollars spent on agriculture and food security, this Government is struggling to feed his people. Interestingly Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the President in his Speech stated that; "Failing to feed a nation or failing to feed the people might or may lead to unrest and terrorism". This is serious and why? It is because of the adage that "A hungry man is an angry man". Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I strongly believed that this is very serious; the reason why this is very serious is because majority of Sierra Leoneans are very, very hungry and if we continue on this trajectory, I am afraid of the President Speech where he stated that "If we fail to feed our people might lead to unrest and terrorism" *[Undertone]* page? Page 3 Paragraph 23-27.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, so with all of these facts, it shows that Sierra Leoneans are very hungry, but with this it will allow us to look into the Tormabun Project. The Tormabun Project was launched on 11st of June 2021 by His Excellency the

President. A fantastic project, but unfortunately, we are still waiting for the first bag of rice to be produced. We are still waiting and interestingly, the aim of that project was to transform the nation's rice value chain and to boost the FEED SALONE Project, but since this project was launched, Sierra Leoneans are still waiting for the first bag of rice to be produced; can you imagine this!

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the launched of the Tormabun Project *[Undertone]*, I can vividly remembered when the President stated that "His Government will seize to subsidies the importation on rice". The reason was because he believed that subsidies to rice importation will be detrimental to the Country's Economy, which is a great idea. He gave us the assurance that the Tormanbun Rice Budget will be a permanent fix; is it a permanent fix? *[Undertone]* okay, thank you so very much...*[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: May I remind you that you still have One Minute left!

HON. ABDULAI KAMARA: Alright Mr speaker. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this again appears to be wrongly calculated. As we speak, a bag of rice is around a thousand Leones and if a bag of rice is at a thousand Leones or above, then a bag of rice is now even above the minimum wage of the country *[Applause]*. a bag of rice. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, all of these challenges added last year. This New Direction Government still went ahead and added 5% tax increase to the importation of rice, hoping that the Tormbun Rice Project will be a permanent fix, even though when we know that the Tormabun Rice Project is a failure. The most important thing here is that they added 5% tax on rice importation. It is on progress. What do we think would happen next is that 82% of Sierra Leoneans would severely suffer from food security; maybe, this time, it will hit up to 90 or 95% *[Applause]*.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Member, for your wonderful contribution. We have had a number of clarifications this morning, the Honourable from Kailahun, the Honourable Lollo Tongi in her presentation noted that a bag of rice in Guinea is 700 Franc-guineen and the Honourable S.O.S asked me to confirm [to cross-check] and I checked and I converted 700 Franc-guineen to Leones. In Leones, it

means if you are in Guinea, the price of rice is one million five hundred and Nle90.25, so what we are saying is that progressively in the last debate Guinea was the center of the conversion. Prices were lower in Guinea, but now prices are lower in Sierra Leone than in Guinea and that is progress.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, cross-check for us the minimum wage in Guinea and compare it to Sierra Leone *[Undertone]*.

THE SPEAKER: Well, what I cross-checked is what comes to the Floor. So, if in your debate or in the debate, any Member there mentions the minimum wage in Guinea as against Sierra Leone *[Undertone]*, I will cross-check and I will do the conversion.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I will give more facts...*[Interruption]*

THE SPEAKER: By the time you take the Floor, please make sure you bring more facts.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Okay Sir Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The facts that are available before me are the facts that I am going to make pronouncement on and from the conversion of 700 Franc-Guineen to Leones, it shows that 700 Franc-Guineen for a bag of rice in Guinea is One Million Five Hundred and Ninety Leones Twenty Five Cents. On that note, I will give the Floor to the last Speaker of this debate, the Honourable Engineer Habib Keifa Fabbah of Bo District *[Undertone]*. He has been here since morning and he has been making notes since he came *[Laughter]*.

HON. HABIB K. FABBAH: Mr Speaker, thank you very much for given me the space to lend my voice to this debate. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my own debate will take a different trajectory. I have to be anti-clockwise, more or less, I will a little bit deviate from previous debaters.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, basically, what facilitates me much about His Excellency's Address laid in this Parliament on 6th August, 2024, is that his Address was entails or the ingredient was much about Civic Nationalism, more or less, a political

ideology, which adheres to an inclusive form of national identity forged by political device, but support for a classically liberal inclusion and principles. Against that backdrop, I will with your leave Mr Speaker, connect the debate to Page 1, Paragraphs 3,4,5 and then Paragraphs 16,17 and then Paragraphs 70 and 71, if time permits me.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, basically, what I am trying to say is that the President's Address was more or less very much nationalistic. As a humble President who I can say from Paragraph 3 with your leave Mr Speaker, He said "Governance and politics though intertwine, but serve different purposes. Politics is the pathway to governance, it is the spirited dance of democracy; yet once the elections are behind us, we must embrace governance with a singular focus. If we allow politics to overshadow governance, we will fail not only as politicians, but also as custodians of our nation's future." He went on to say "Our citizens have entrusted us with their hopes and dreams looking to us to transform political promises into tangible realities."

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, basically, I will go directly to Paragraphs 70 and 71 because of limited time. Paragraphs 70 and 71, the Government for maybe MPs crossed across the Ailse, who are in the Work and Public Asset Committee can attest that the Government is doing something in this country, the President is doing a project in this country which is to completely lift the face of the country more or less as we are talking about Agriculture or FEED SALONE. If you go to communities like to Toparay, Government is doing 7.5million bridge, which we are converting the ferries. Government is doing 7.5million bridges in Karene and Matru Jong in Bonthe District. Government is doing 9.8million ferries converting to bridges. If you go to Gendema in Kenema District, Government is doing 8.4million Bridge and in Manowa Kailahun District, Government is doing 7.5million *Bridge*. I am talking about the cost of the bridges, so these are huge projects. For some of us who have been working across the country, you will see people driving these ferries manually. I am envisaging where this project is taking Sierra Leone.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you cannot talk about sustainable Agriculture without connecting markets across the country. If you produce perishable goods or

even if they are something consumable, you can transform them into money if you do not have access to the market. In my opinion, the award winning President of this country, the Retired but not tired Brigadier Julius Maada Bio is on the right foot to take this country to another level. In fact, we are seeing him taking Sierra Leone to another level.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will quickly go to Paragraphs 16 and 17 as I said. I am still within the budget of time allotted to me. Mr Speaker, I speak from the technical point as an engineer; you cannot build your private house without drawing plans, so I will draw our attention to the medium term national development plan. The President is very much sincere with this nation; you cannot do anything without drawing plan. So with your leave Mr Speaker, let me just go through paragraph 16; "No Government can succeed without concrete and implementable medium and long term goals meticulously designed to address the unique needs of its people". Basically what the President is trying to say in this paragraph can allay our fears, can give us hope that we are seeing light at the end of the tunnel. The plans are beautiful and all what we need to do across the Ailse as the Opposition Bench is part of governance.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I indulge all of us to give our respective support, so that the President will succeed, rather than doing or maybe opposing in a manner that cannot bring any good dividend to this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, against that backdrop, let me end with Paragraph 181 that it is incumbent upon all of us to rise above the dream of politics, political discord and to focus on greater goals. On this note Mr Speaker, let me call upon all of us to put Sierra Leone first as the President is doing. I am sure, if we all do this, we will see the direction where Sierra Leone is going comparatively. There is hope and we are fulfilling the dreams of our electorates. Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Thank you for your attention, I rest my case [*Applause*].

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank the Honourable Member for ending on the note on optimizing and assurance, I do believe indeed there is hope, because when I take a look at the numbers in Agriculture, from what you have said this morning across the

Ailse, I realized that in 2021, Sierra Leone imported 380,000 metric tons of rice and in 2022, we imported 430,000 and in 2023 it has dropped to 125,000 metric tons. So, I believe there is hope and you have ended this session on a very strong belief on hope.

Honourable Members, on that note, this House stands adjourned. Do we have an announcement? We have S.O 23 on announcement. I will take the Paramount Chief first.

HON. P. C. KANDEH PARIA KAWALEH II: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I just wanted to draw your attention to the issue of the Kamakwei-Makeni Bridge. Mr Speaker that bridge has been damaged and as I am talking to you, the local way that the boys are trying to amend the bridge, even the boards are already dilapidated and now the bridge is about to cut off entirely Mr Speaker. Maybe by next week, there will be no road in Kamakwei-Makeni highway.

Mr Speaker, please I want to draw your attention for you to actually make sure that you tell the people concerned for them to put more on that bridge. Please Mr Speaker, thank you very much Sir.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much revered Paramount Chief, I want to assure you that the budget is coming and let us wait; I am not sure the Ministry of Finance can venture into any expenditure without the approval of this House. Verily so I believe in the budget that is coming something will be included to construct that bridge because it is an important pathway to Sierra Leone. Honourable Ben....

HON. ALPHA BEN MANSARAY: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, we have a nationwide representation and I visited Bo and Pujehun Districts. I want to bring to the attention of this House with regards to the Koiyema Government Secondary School Bordering home and that of the Zimmi. I know for most of the time we only see our Bo School celebrating Bo School but these two Government Secondary Schools they are very important and the Bordering Schools they lacked a lot of facilities that needs the attention of Government, so that we want to see by next two years whiles Bo School is being celebrated, Koiyema Secondary School can also be celebrated, the Zimmi

Government Secondary School can also be celebrated. I thank you Mr Speaker
[Applause].

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Member. I am sure the Chairman for Committee on Education is taking note? Is he here? Chairman you do take note and you will try to confine with the Honourable Member from Moyamba. Do we have any announcement? In the absence of any announcement the House stand adjourned to tomorrow Wednesday the 6th of November 2024 at 10a.m prompt.

The House rose at 1:58p.m.

