



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

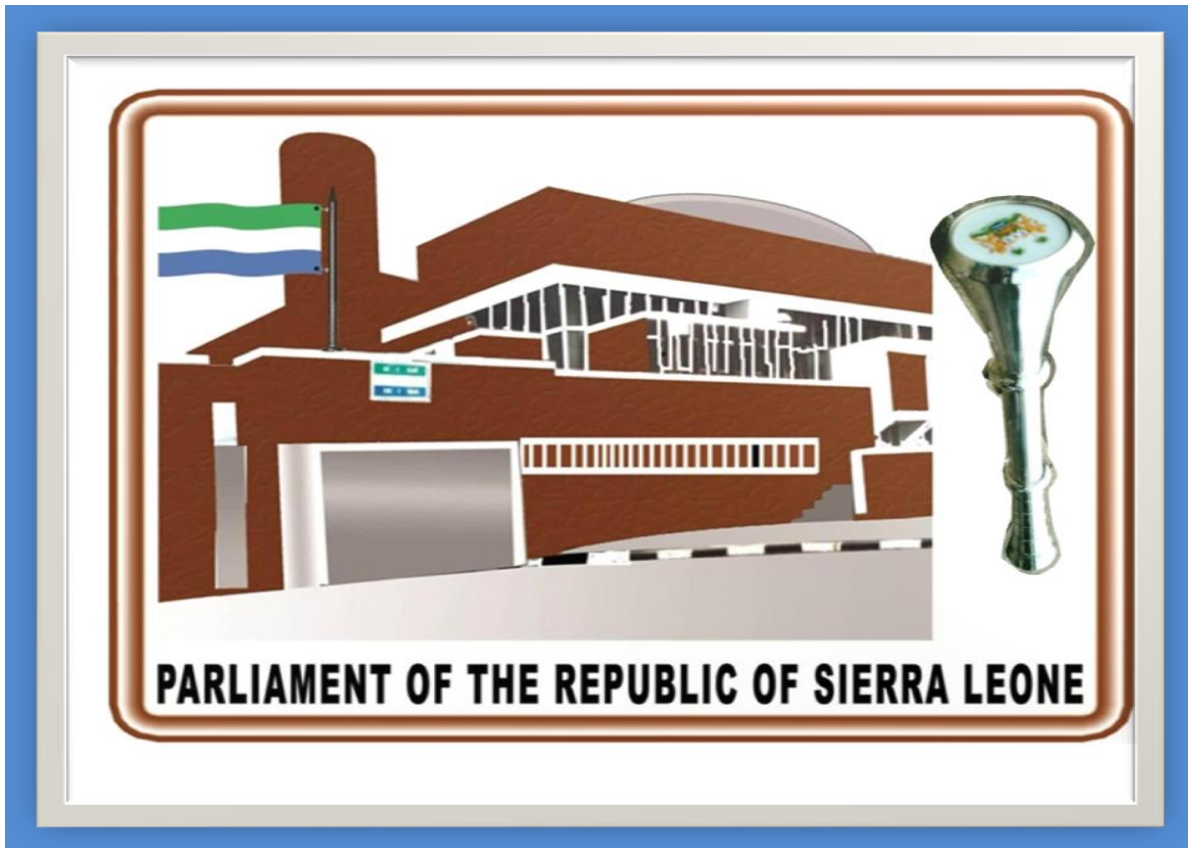
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

SECOND SESSION – SECOND MEETING

TUESDAY, 5TH AUGUST, 2025

SESSION – 2024/2025



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House
Held on Tuesday, 5th August 2025

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SECONDER: HONOURABLE AARON A. KOROMA



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

TUESDAY, 5TH AUGUST 2025

I. PRAYERS

[The Table Clerk, Mr Alimamy Lincoln-Bangura, read the prayers]

[The House met at 10:18 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]

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SITTING HELD ON TUESDAY, 29TH JULY 2025

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we go through the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sitting, held on Tuesday, 29th July 2025. As usual, we shall skip pages 1-4 and start with Page 5. Do you have any comments or corrections to make on Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Page 10? Page 11? If there are no comments or corrections, can someone move for the adoption of the record of Votes and Proceedings for the parliamentary sittings held on Tuesday, 29th July 2025 as presented?

HON. IDRIS SAHID KAMARA: I so move, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

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

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Record on Votes and Proceedings for the Parliamentary sitting held on Tuesday, 29th July, 2025 has been adopted as presented]

III. AMENDMENT OF THE ORDER PAPER

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, before the announcement, I beg to amend the Order Paper. I move that we expunge the item that has to do with the Ministry of Energy, the Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission [Mini-grid] Regulations, 2025. This means we do not have item III on the Order Paper anymore.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

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

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Motion to amend the Order Paper has been carried]

IV. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I wish to recognise the diligence of certain Honourable Members who were in this Well before I entered. This is for the attention of the public or the citizens of Sierra Leone that we have Members of Parliament who are

extremely diligent and they do exactly the work for which they were elected. They are always in Parliament before Mr Speaker enters. There are those who do not even come to Parliament, but there would be a day when I would come to this Chamber and announce their names. I will announce the names of those who come to the Chambers late and those who do not come at all. It is for the public to know. I am also informing this House that there are certain Chairmen and deputies who do not come to this House as required and they will not be made Chairmen and deputies again. I am saying this for your attention, so that we do not remove people from the list as Chairmen and deputies and they decide to say something different. If you are made Chairman or Deputy Chairman and you do not come to this Well, we will not tolerate such situation. This is for the attention of the general public. The Honourable Joseph Williams-Lamin is personally going to be on my list for the chairmanship.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, on behalf of my Leader, I just want to inform this House that Honourable Rugiatu Rosy Kanu will personally be on our list.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Leader of the Opposition. Therefore, I recognise the following Honourable Members who are always in the Chambers on time and they are doing their work diligently:

Honourable Joseph Williams-Lamin
Honourable Umu Pyne
Honourable Alpha Fode Maddie Jabbie
Honourable Ibrahim Kabbah
Honourable Musa Fofanah
Honourable Rugiatu Rosy Kanu
Honourable Mariama Ella Goba
Honourable Paul Samba Conteh
Honourable Abdullai Karim Kanu
Honourable Adama Bangura
Honourable Idriss Sahid Kamara
Honourable Alice Jebbeh Kumanbeh
Honourable Alfred A. Thompson
Honourable Brima Mansaray
Honourable Osman Abdullai
Honourable Lucinda Kellie
Honourable Mohamed Tarawallie-Fofanah
Honourable Memunatu Jalloh
Honourable Daniel A Bangura

Honourable Rugiatu Tarawallie Mussiafa
Honourable Allusine Bash Kamara
Honourable Princess Daramy
Honourable Alie Bayoh
Honourable Daniel Fornah
Honourable Alpha Ben Mansaray
Honourable Alhaji Yusuf Mackery
Honourable Nenneh Lebbie
Honourable Marie Kamara
Honourable Emerson Saa Lamina
Honourable Fallah Tengbeh
Honourable P.C Bio Prince Lansana
Honourable Foyoh Tholley
Honourable Sylvester Bioma
Honourable P.C Alameen Kanneh
Honourable Bernadette Wuyatte Songa
Honourable Mohamed A. Jalloh
Honourable Beatrice Maaya Kangbai
Honourable Amie Nyava Moriba
Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara
Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara, Opposition Whip
Honourable Daniel .B. Koroma
Honourable Beatrice Iyamide Yanglely
Honourable Fatmata Sarah Sokuneh
Honourable Christopher Kekura Vandy
Honourable Mohamed Kanneh
Honourable Moses Edwin
Honourable Alex .M. Rogers

I want to thank you very much for serving this nation diligently. Honourable Members, let me say that if you do not see Honourable Daniel Brima Koroma here in time, then something that is very important has happened. He is so exceptional and I am to inform this House that at the end of this calendar year, we are going to have a dinner where the Speaker is going to give awards. So, do not say we come to Parliament, but they did not give us awards. If the bloggers want to criticise Members of Parliament for not coming to Parliament, please remove these names I have just mentioned and deal with the others.

V. PAPER LAID

A. HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA

MAJORITY LEADER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

HON. MATHEW SAHR NYUMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have done the amendment on the Order Paper and I think we are going to stand on that based on Standing Orders 11[8]. We have expunged the item that has to do with the Ministry of Energy. We have also distributed the Paper in line with Standing Order 11[8].

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this House the following Paper, but please permit me to read:

The Monrovia declaration regarding the Consultative Framework for the Establishment of the Mano River Union Parliament [MRUP].

We, Honourable Segepoh Solomon Thomas, Speaker of Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone; Honourable Richard Nagbe Koon, Speaker of the House of Representative, Legislature of the Republic of Liberia; Honourable Dr Dansa Kourouma, President of the National Transitional Council [NTC] of the Republic of Guinea; and Honourable Adama Bictogo, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire; Ghana, Monrovia, Republic of Liberia, dated 20th July 2025 for a working session to request the state of member countries of the Mano River Union to establish a parliamentary body of the Union, considering the firm objectives of the Mano River Union [MRU], that was established in 1973 over fifty years ago:

- to promote regional integration, peace, stability and developments amongst its member states;
- the need to deepen the dynamics of integration by involving elected national representatives with a view of inclusive democratic governance;
- the Legislative aspirations of the people of the Union of Mano River States to take part in decision making process relating to their common features; and
- the shared values of solidarity, common culture and history, which unite our nations as members of the common destiny.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this House the declaration which we call the Monrovia declaration. May I ask for your permission to give a brief explanation about the ceremony? This is because the ceremony was colourful and we are trying to build the Mano River Parliament after fifty years of its establishment. Mr Speaker, with your leave, I would like to make some statements.

THE SPEAKER: That is the Leader of Government Business. Honourable Members, the declaration is self-explanatory. We intend, as Speakers of the Mano River Union countries, to establish a Mano River Union Parliament and of course in establishing it,

attendance is going to be key in the selection of Members of the Mano River Parliament. We agreed, as Speakers, to have ten Members from each Parliament. So, my attendance list will be key in the selection of MPs. It is also good for us, as a Union, to have this Parliament. The other day, you were here when the Speaker from the Republic of Liberia came and I gave him the Floor to convince this House with regard the need to establish the Mano River Union Parliament. The Mano River Union has existed over fifty years and there is nothing much to account for. The heads of states seldomly meet and we have certain critical issues that are within the Union to address. They do not even meet to address some of these issues. So, if we were able to get this Parliament, we would be there to take certain moves relating to the issues around the Union. That is how important it is; and of course, we have already met with His Excellency the President and he is also willing to ensure that we have this particular Parliament. I thank you very much and let us look forward to establishing this Parliament as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, just to bring you to speed and based on the protocols, I first of all want to thank you and my colleagues for the vision of the heads of states. I pray that this vision comes to fruition. When we went to Liberia on the ACP mission, I reported and laid the document in this House on how we can establish new relations in terms of trade and proper democratic governance. This was exactly why we went to Liberia. We went there with the vision and aspirations of the people of Sierra Leone on behalf of His Excellency. At the PSC meeting yesterday, the Acting Clerk presented the document and we are working on the protocol, perhaps we need to make a pronouncement on that. We did not participate based on obvious reasons. I am sure with your good leadership, we are going to achieve the objectives we have already set. I am just asking for you to talk about the protocol. Maybe you would form a team that will join the Clerk to work on the Protocol. Perhaps, you want to make a statement on behalf of Parliament on how to work on the Protocol.

THE SPEAKER: We are supposed to lay it also. Has it been completed?

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: You know, we were not part of it. You were challenging the Assembly in Guinea.

THE SPEAKER: We will deal with that at the Leadership level.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: That is fine. I want to thank Mr Acting Clerk for bringing us to speed. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Similarly, I want to extend my profound thanks and appreciation, on behalf of my team, for your relentless support in ensuring that there is another regional body that will look into issues affecting the Mano River Union. I was

part of the delegation led by you and we were well-received in Liberia. The initiative was so welcomed by the African countries, such as Liberia, Cote D' Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone. For us in Sierra Leone, we want to extend our profound thanks and appreciation to all those involved in this development. We want you to note that we are ready to work with you, especially facilitating this kind of initiatives. It is a novelty and history will not forget us. I want to thank you sir.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Leader of the Opposition.

B. THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION.

HON. MATHEW .S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg to lay on the Table of this House the following Papers:

- i. The Communications Subscriber Identification and Registration Management Regulations, 2025.
- ii. The National Communications Authority Act, 2022 [Act No. 16 of 2022] Statutory Instrument [No. 9 of 2025].
- iii. The Communications Quality-Of-Service Regulations, 2025.
- iv. The National Communications Authority Act, 2022 [Act No. 16 of 2022] Statutory Instrument No. 10 of 2025

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O. 25 [1]. Mr Speaker, given the nature of these two regulations on both security and the furtherance of our communication activities and looking at the remoteness of our country and the unavailability of registration centers across the country, I want to move a notice of Motion for this Regulation to be debated. I will do the needful within the shortest possible time. It is just a notice of Motion.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Member. Please do the needful for a debate.

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

Proposer: Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma

Seconder: Honourable Aaron A. Koroma

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I present to you the Fifteenth Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on parliamentary vetting of presidential nominations- August, 2025:

1. Introduction

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, in tandem with its constitutional obligations, met on Friday, 1st August, 2025 and interviewed **six** presidential nominees for the following positions:

- i. Deputy Minister II, Ministry of Finance;
- ii. Ombudsman;
- iii. Director General. Sierra Leone Shipping Agency;
- iv. Deputy Director General, National Petroleum Regulatory Authority;
- v. Commissioner, National Youths Commission; and
- vi. Member, Sierra Leone Roads Authority Board.

2. Procedure

The Committee maintained, as usual, its strict established procedures and interviewed the aforesaid nominees on issues pertaining to their educational backgrounds to ensure that they have the relevant education and necessary backup experience to lead such important offices of state. Probing questions covered wide ranging issues relating to track records pertinent to their declared assets, tax obligations and visions for sustainable and productive tenures. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise were also strictly looked into by the Committee.

3. Fifteenth Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee interviewed the following nominees on oath:

i. Ms Jeneh Jabati, Proposed Deputy Minister II, Ministry of Finance

Ms Jeneh Jabati is a seasoned banker with over 35 years of remarkable and unblemished service at the Bank of Sierra Leone. She is an accomplished Human Resource practitioner that attained the position of Chief Operating Officer and Head of Human Resource at the Bank of Sierra Leone. Her long years of work at the Central Bank give her much insight into the operational link between the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Sierra Leone which would leverage the supervision over the latter by the Finance Ministry. She holds a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management from Middlesex University, United Kingdom in 2006. She is also a Chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. This background earned her

extensive experience in the financial sector whilst serving various departments within the Central bank including General Services Secretariat and procurement.

In her response to Members of the Committee on tax and financial due diligence, the nominee said **“I am going to the Ministry of Finance with administrative skills and team work to support the Agenda of the Government. With integrity and commitment, I will work with my bosses to execute state assignments as required.”** The Committee advised that the Ministry of Finance pays closer attention to the extractive sector for the repatriation of foreign exchange earnings through nominal role as in other African countries where mining sectors are thriving well.

ii. Mr Emmanuel Sahr Tondoneh, proposed Ombudsman

Mr Emmanuel Sahr Tondoneh Esq is a highly experienced legal professional in Corporate and Commercial transaction, administration, mining and contract management. He has a strong focus on corporate laws and regulatory compliance insolvency which he has demonstrated over the past years with analytical expertise during complex legal matters both home and abroad.

This renowned Counsel holds a Master Degree in Corporate and Commercial Law [2015-2016] from the University of Dundee [United Kingdom], a Bachelor of Law with Honours [2003-2006] at De Montfort University Leicester, United Kingdom and is currently pursuing a Doctorate Degree [PhD] at the same De Montfort University, UK.

A close examination of his employment records reveals the following:

- Nov. 2024-Feb 2025: Rosab Group as External General Counsel; providing legal and company Secretariat supports, management adviser, performance management expert amongst others to Rosab;
- Dec. 2021-Nov 2022: FG Gold Limited, Legal Consultant
- Aug. 2017-Aug 2020: Sierra Rutile Limited; Legal Consultant/Counsel
- 2011-2017: Cole & Co Solicitor, Senior Associate;
- 2014-2015: Timis Mining Corporation [SL] Limited, Legal Counsel & Head Commercial Contracts
- 2013-2014 London Mining Company Limited, Legal Counsel Secretary and Head of Commercial Contracts; etc.

In his interaction with the Committee, Mr Tondoneh proved very professional and articulate with a deep sense of knowledge on the Office of the Ombudsman as in Chapter VIII, Section 146[2] of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. He expressed enthusiasm to popularise the office as he mentioned: **“I will work with the office of the Attorney General to review the archaic laws that will guide and make the office attractive and useful to Citizens.”**

iii. Mr Mustapha Mark Lissa, proposed Director General, National Shipping Agency

Mr Mustapha Mark Lissa is a disciplined administrator, with over 17 years of managerial experience with sound knowledge in demonstrating leadership skills. He has a proven track record as a strong personality with solid approach in performing tasks and achieving objectives. He is one of the oldest staff of the said Shipping Company where he has gone through the ranks. He holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) Degree with special emphasis on shipping and Ports Administration from the Business University of Costa Rica and has held several managerial positions thus:

- 2021 – to date: Deputy Managing Director, Sierra Leone Shipping Company Ltd.
- 2014 2018: member of the Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Seafarers Union.
- 2010 – 2017: shipping manager, Sierra Leone National Shipping Company Ltd.
- 2006 – 2010: assistant shipping manager, Sierra Leone National Shipping Company,

Reacting to the future economic and social development potentials of the new Merchant Shipping Act of 2025 for the said institution, Mr Lissa expressed optimism of more growth over the 2003 period of outdated Act as the outlined benefits of **40%** on inbound and outbound cargo tax from operating companies would economically help the country and the Shipping Agency. **“My long years of service at the Shipping agency would help me execute the mandate of the new Act with support from all stakeholders,”** he added

iv. Mr Joseph Maada Lahai proposed Commissioner, National Youths Commission

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Youths empowerment processes are taken seriously by both the Ministry and the Youths Commission. In all these, government allows the Youths to lead and to carve out their own livelihoods with a structured government Agenda.

Mr Joseph Maada Lahai is a strategic team player, with exceptional interpersonal and mentoring skills. He is an experienced project manager with proven track records in delivering results with stipulated time frame. He is a specialist in community engagement with extensive background knowledge in working with youths in deprived communities.

He is currently awaiting results for his Master’s degree in Operations and Project Management from Athena Global Education, United Kingdom. He is also a certified project management professional from both the Vantage Leadership School, Kenya and project management Institute, United States of America. His extensive work experience in the same Ministry and related sectors were noted thus:

- 2022-date: Director of Programmes, State House.
- 2018 – 2022: Programme Manager, Youths in Fisheries project, Ministry of Youth Affairs that caters for majority of youths in riverine and coastal communities,
- 2016 – 2018: Wash Manager, World Vision Sierra Leone
- 2013 -2014: Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Bonthe District Council

Responding to the Committee on the trajectory on youth’s empowerment and jobs creation, the nominee said “I have been around the aforesaid Ministry and Youths for a while and I am aware of the government priority agenda for the youths. I will work with the Minister, professionals and interested stakeholders to promote government’s youths empowerment programmes of the transformative big five agenda.

v. *Mr Alfred Malthus Kobba, proposed Deputy Director General, National Petroleum Regulatory Authority*

Mr Alfred Malthus Kobba is an analytical Petroleum and Natural Gas Management professional with over six years’ experience in the Sierra Leone natural gas and petroleum sector. With International Oil and Gas experience, he has proven track records in conducting in-depth market analysis, developing supply-demand forecasting models, monitoring regulations, and infrastructure and pipeline developments that impact on industrial pricing and availability. The Committee noted that retention of such a professional is vital for the Oil and Gas sector.

Mr Kobba has a Master Degree [LLM] in International Oil and Gas Law and Policy from Dundee University, Scotland, United Kingdom [2023]. He also holds a Master of Business Administration, Petroleum and Natural Gas Management from Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India [2023] and other certificates in Marketing, Operations and Logistics management to his credit. With regard work profile, the nominee has exhibited leadership roles thus:

- 2019- 2023: Head, Public Affairs/Communications, National Telecommunications Commission [then] now NATCA,
- 2018 – 2019: Head, Prime Products [Sales & Marketing], Mantrac [CAT] SL Limited
- 2017 – 2018: Head of Operations, My pay Electronic Payment Services [Subsidiary of AFCOM SL Limited]
- 2011 – 2017: Country Manager, Vodacom Business Africa Sierra Leone Limited
- 2008 – 2017: Head, Transaction Banking- Wholesale Banking, Standard Chartered Bank.

Responding to the Committee on what value he would add to the Oil and Gas sector, the nominee said he would be acting on delegated responsibilities and would work

collaboratively with authorities to bring to fruition the visions of the recently amended Act of the institution.

vii. *Haja Kadie Johnson, proposed Member, Sierra Leone Roads Authority [SLRA]*

Haja Kadie Johnson is an accomplished broadcasting journalist with over four decades in uncovering stories that drive social change and policy reforms. She specialized in data –driven reporting, multimedia storytelling and building trusted source networks across diverse communities. She is well known for producing award winning series on both radio and television of the National Broadcaster, then SLBS now the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation [SLBC].

She has spent all her professional life at the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation from 1986 to date. Her dedication, uprightness and commitment to duty earned her several awards nationally including Presidential award in 2017 and the Justice of Peace award in 2002. The Committee endorsed her remarkable national service as worthy; and recalled instances where the commanding voice of this nominee swept through the morning and evening airwaves of the SLBC on contending issues especially relating to gender.

In her response to the Committee on the work of the SLRA Board, she said: **“I am going to the Board to learn and work closely with other Members and the administration to execute the mandates of the institution, as the Act establishes.”**

4. Recommendations

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

- i. Ms Jeneh Jabati, proposed Deputy Minister II, Ministry of Finance;
- ii. Mr Emmanuel Sahr Tondoneh, proposed Ombudsman;
- iii. Mr Mustapha Mark Lissa, proposed Director General, National Shipping Agency;
- iv. Mr Joseph Maada Lahai, proposed Commissioner, National Youths Commission;
- v. Mr Alfred Malthus Kobba, proposed Deputy Director General, National Petroleum Regulatory Authority; and
- vi. Haja Kadie Johnson, proposed Member, Sierra Leone Roads Authority.

5. Conclusion

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, with the aforesaid, I therefore move that the **Fifteenth Report** of the Second Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Signed.....

Hon. Mathew S. Nyuma [JP]

Chairman and Leader of Government Business

[Question Proposed]

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we are again privileged, as a House, to be presented with these very fine nominees.

THE SPEAKER: I think you have a nominee, right?

HON. AARON A. KOROMA: Well, that is not only the case; he just underscored how much I understand parliamentary procedures. The fact that you did not put the question, it was the right thing for me to do. As I said, we are again presented with fine nominees from His Excellency the President to serve in various capacities. Fortunately, as a Member of the Appointments Committee, I was part of those Members of Parliament who vetted these nominees. I know and I can clearly confirm that these are fine, competent and abled Sierra Leoneans who have been nominated by the President to serve in various MDAs. I am sure all of us know that when it comes to qualifications and competences, Sierra Leone is one of those countries that does not lack any of those attributes of people who are capable to serve in respectable offices. Like I said, we are privileged to have these fine nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to start with Madam Jenneh Jabati, proposed Deputy Minister of Finance [II] of the Ministry of Finance. Naturally, you will come to understand the secrets why men normally give the housekeeping supports to women, which we call 'chop money.' By nature, women are good economic managers in Africa and that is why I believe that having a woman who has served for over thirty-five [35] years in the Monetary Policy Sector of this country, which is the Bank of Sierra Leone, I see our transition from the monetary to the fiscal sector of our economy to be a seamless transition. She should be able to fit into that capacity and to make sure that she serves in the best interest of Sierra Leone. Among the nominees here today, it is clear that she has received the loudest applause from the public and there is a saying that: 'to whom much is given, much is expected.' They are not just clapping because they love you; they are clapping because they are expecting so much from your

services. Therefore, even though you are going to serve as Deputy Minister, your previous deputy ministers of Finance [II] have mostly been in charge of expenditure management. If that role is going to be assigned to you, it is our wish that those MDAs that are service driven or MDAs that provide services that have to do with Health, Education, Water, Agriculture or other sectors, are given adequate resources and disbursement of funds should be time bound. This is because timely disbursement of funds has been a perennial problem affecting MDAs in Sierra Leone. When budgets are presented to this House, the Ministry of Finance would say they have allocated **NLe50 or NLe60 Billion** to a particular MDA, but when you look at the actual disbursement, it is nothing to write home about. In most cases, instead of them receiving four quarters allocations, they only received one quarter or if possible half yearly allocation and that is not good for development. This is not the reason why these people are clapping; these people want to make sure that when they go to the hospitals, they get drugs; when they go to hospitals, they see motivated doctors. These doctors cannot be motivated and drugs cannot be in the hospitals when funds are not disbursed on time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure their kids are mostly beneficiaries of the free quality education. We cannot have teachers going to the streets to protest, but if we demotivated the teachers who are teaching our kids, they would not provide quality tutorials to our kids. This is why when you go there, we would want you to work with your team in the Ministry to make sure the issue that has to do with teachers, especially school fee subsidy. This is because for any delay in providing subsidy will have adverse implication on the outcome of planning in our schools.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have the conviction that she would do wonders. I always have this saying that if you want things to be said and done, 'try a woman.' I have that belief and I know when she goes there, she would listen to the cries of the masses; she would listen to the cries of the public to make sure that adequate resources are provided for all sectors that render services that impact the people positively. Like I said, I believe that with her background in the banking sector and having worked for the Bank of Sierra Leone or the central Government through the Accountant General for a very long period of time, I am sure that if she is given this position, she can do exploits. I want to wish you well and I want to ask that this House considers your nomination.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk about the man who is going to serve as Ombudsman, Mr Emmanuel Sahr Tondoneh. One thing that is clear is that he has respect and love for women. When we asked him whom he was living with, he told us that he was living with his mother. We took that to be humorous, but it underscored the kind of respect, care and love he has for women. In his submission, he continued to

exemplify and extol his wife. This is a testament of his respect for the women. Mr Speaker, for any Sierra Leonean or man who has respect for his mother or for the women in general, it is easy to know because the man would show love and care to the general wellbeing of Sierra Leoneans. The Office of the Ombudsman is a critical office. Section 146 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone is very clear as to what should be the mandate of the Ombudsman. It is meant to investigate administrative injustices, but when an Act of Parliament was enacted in 1997, there are many other laws and agencies that have been put in place and those laws or agencies have similarly undermined the functionality of the Ombudsman. We now have the Human Rights Commission, which is almost doing the functions of the Ombudsman's Office. We have the Legal Aid Board, even though they are dealing with matters out of courts, but that also infringes the initial mandate of the Ombudsman. We have the IMC and other institutions, such as the ACC that is looking at abuse of office related matters. Those are related administrative injustices.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure there is need for the proposed Ombudsman to make sure that when he goes to that institution, he looks at the Act for an immediate review and amendment, so that we can match the mandate of the Ombudsman to emerging issues. We do not want any MDA that receives government's resources, but failed to performance its functions. It will have little or no impact at all. Mr Speaker, if you looked at Section 146 and even the Act, you would know that the findings and recommendations of the Ombudsman are not legally binding. This in itself is undermining the work of the Ombudsman. If the findings or recommendations of the Ombudsman are not implementable, it means you are not ready to make this particular institution effective and efficient. This is why there is need for urgent review and amendment of the Act, so as to give powers and ensure its efficacy. We have to make the findings of the Ombudsman mandatory and implementable.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the public is almost unaware of the existence of the Ombudsman. When Mr Francis Gabbidon was Ombudsman, that Office used to be well-known and respected in Sierra Leone. In just five years, this Office has got three to five Ombudsmen as Vote Controllers. And that is not good for democracy. Maybe this was because they have not been able to make sure that they put up to the face of the public. So, it is our wish that when he goes there, he should popularise the mandate of this particular Office. The aim is to ensure that people know the mandate of the Ombudsman, so that when there are issues of injustice, people will know that instead of going to court, the first point of call should be the Ombudsman. When people are aware of the existence or the importance of this Office, I am sure it will improve on their competence.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would also like to talk about another very fine nominee, Haja Kadie Johnson. All of us know that this is a household name in this country. She has lived all her life serving this nation from the 90s till her retirement. We are also aware that there was a popular programme on SLBS, now SLBC, commonly known as 'how dae go, dae go.' She was the presenter of that well listened programme in this country. As a Parliament, it will help Sierra Leone to have somebody who has served this nation in a very transparent, patriotic and dedicated manner. It is but fitting to thank her for the contributions she made for this country. I would entreat her to continue to do the good work for the people of this country. You have served this nation with all your might; and that is why when you look at her resume, you would find out that she has been recognised by almost all Presidents of this country. In 2002, she was given an award; she was made a JP and that was recognition of her service. Again, in 2017, she was recognised by the former President of Sierra Leone, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma as an Officer of the Order of the Republic. Today, the Current President has recognised her efforts by appointing her to serve as Board Member of the Sierra Leone Roads Authority.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the roads sector is an important sector in this country. It leads developments and that is why previous governments have placed emphasis on the connectivity of our roads. Therefore, when you go there as a mother, please make sure that the SLRA continues to live up to its mandate. Roads must not be only seen in one district or one region; we want to see roads right across this country. What happens in Bo should be seen in Makeni; what happens in Kenema should be seen in Magburaka; whatever that is going on in other sectors should be seen across the country. There are critical roads that require the urgent attention of the SLRA and the government as a whole. The road that links Mile 91 to Robor is not just an important road, but it is an economic road in this country. As it is, if someone leaves Bo to go to Makeni, he/she would have to take the long route through Masiaka; but if that route is connected, it is going to be a short route from Mile 91 to Magburaka and by the time you think about it, you are in Makeni. The road that links Yele and Bo is very strategic because it connects the Southern and the Northern Regions. It is a short route and you spend almost little or no time to travel from the South to the North. That is why when we construct roads, we must not only look at our strongholds, we have to construct roads that are economically viable. Also, the Mano Dase Road is very important.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if someone from Kono wants to go to Kenema on good road, you have to pass via Makeni, Bo and then Kenema. That is a very long route; but if that road is going through Tongo, it would ease the movement of people and also improve businesses for our people. It would ensure economic growth across

the country. Again, the Falaba Kono Road is another very important road. Contracts were awarded for the construction of those roads, but they were terminated without reasons. I know we have a mother that is going to that sector and I want to plead with her that when she takes up office, she should emphasise the importance of some of these roads. You would agree with me that roads are not just political commodities, but they ensure social and economic wellbeing of our nation. If our roads are properly rehabilitated, I am sure every other sector will be stimulated. Therefore, it is our hope that in as much as you have shown to be hardworking when you were serving the defunct SLBS for over 40 years, we know you have the competence and the heart of a mother to rally behind the administrative wing of SLRA to make sure that they do the needful. You have to make sure that you prioritise roads that are very important or economically viable for this nation. We have many potholes in our cities. If you ply the Bo/Kenema Road, you would notice many potholes. In fact, cases of accidents are on the increase and those accidents happened as a result of the potholes. I want to urge the nominee to work with her colleagues, so that these issues are addressed.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk about the man who is going to serve as Commissioner for the National Youth Commission, Mr Joseph Maada Lahai. I have known him from our University days and I know that throughout his years in public life, he has been dealing with youth related matters, whether from the NGO world or from government circle, he has been serving within the spectrum of the youth. Therefore, I believe that his appointment is timely because he knows the issues affecting the young people in this country. You would agree with me that issues of youth are clearly spelt out in the National Youth Service Act. We have many players in youth sector: we have the National Youth Club; we have the Ministry of Youth Affairs; we have the National Youth Commission. These are all creatures of the Government and that shows the importance Government attaches to the young people of this country. Therefore, collaboration is key in ensuring that these sectors work together, so as to ensure the empowerment of our young people. We cannot say our youth are empowered by just providing fishing boats; and we cannot just empower our youth just by the construction of a car wash centers. The National Youth Service Act provides for the creation of skills that will make the youths employable. To me, that is the best way we can do for our youths. Their middle level manpower is almost zero in this country because most of them are not well-trained to create jobs for themselves. In fact, even when they have the requirements, they go for BSc instead of diplomas at the Freetown Polytechnic to acquire the skills that give them lifetime jobs.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, my expectation is that you have to make sure the TVET education is fashionable. The problem why the youth are not going for the TVET education is because the government has not made it fashionable to attract young

people. If you provide jobs or requirements for TVET related education, you would realise that most jobs will require diplomas instead of degrees. What is the essence of having a Bachelor of Arts degree in history when the world is no longer interested in history? We are living in a world of innovation. If you go to China, you would realise that they do not even talk about history; they think about the future, but we keep reading history when the world is now moving to Artificial Intelligence [AI]. If you start reading Accounting, it will be difficult for you to have job because of the advent of AI. We now have tools that prepare better financial statements than human beings. Therefore, the way to go now is skills training; let us make sure we encourage our youthful population to look for viable skills, so that they can be employable and make them useful in society. We have a nation that is prone to drugs. That is the truth and we should not shy away from the fact. That is the reality because we have lots of young people today who are drug addicts and this is not only an urban issue; it is a national issue. When you go to these villages, you would see these youths partaking in drugs. That is a societal menace we must try very hard to get rid of entirely.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think we have the right man for that sector. I know it is not something he is going to do alone. There are many other players you should collaborate with and make sure that emphasis is placed on how these youths can be useful in society. Like I said, we have many players in the youth sector and most of the supports for the young people are being implemented by the NGOs. That is also another issue you have to pay attention to. If your nomination is approved today, please work with those NGOs. There are NGOs implementing youth related projects, but those projects are not in the knowledge of the Ministry of Youth Affairs or other agencies. As a youth Commissioner who is going to be the coordinator of the youth initiative of government, please make sure you coordinate all youth interventions across the board, whether it is an NGO or government related youth programme. Please, you have to place emphasise on this issue. We cannot succeed in the Feed Salone if the youths are not placed in a better position. We have to prioritise the agriculture sector and one way to do that is to make sure you form youth groups, so that when they go into farming, they are assured that people will buy their farm products at an affordable price. I am sure it will boost their economic wellbeing.

Mr Speaker Honourable Members, I want to believe that Mr Joseph Maada Lahai is competent, capable and he has it all to bring on board other players within the youth sector in order to make sure he delivers and makes positive change for the young people of this country. We cannot wait; we want to see tangible interventions geared towards empowering our young people, rather than giving them handouts that are not sustainable. You and I know that youth in fisheries is a very old intervention that was undertaken by the previous government, but most of them have not been of a success

because the youths are not prepared to be fishermen. They were given boats, but most of them ended up selling them and disappeared because they were not prepared for that kind of trade. I want you to conduct a nationwide skills assessment with a view to determining the training needs of our youths. This will enable you to develop needs training programmes that will help these youths to become self-reliant and viable.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I also want to talk about the nominee for the National Petroleum Regulatory Agency, Mr Alfred Kobba. Like the Leader of Government Business said, he is also another capable Sierra Leonean. When you look at his profile, it tells you how much he is qualified to hold this office. He is very young; he has the energy and he would deliver if he chooses to. I want to remind him that the said sector is very important for this country because fuel is a political commodity. Therefore, it is important that whosoever finds himself in that sector should create a kind of liberal market. This is where I want to give credit to the current leadership of the NPRA. You would agree with me that before now, we used to have three players in that sector, the NP, Leonco, etc., but for a couple of years now, we have seen many other players. When you have many players in the market, there will be price reduction and that is what we are seeing presently. We are now experiencing price variation in the pump price. If you go to some fuel stations, you would buy a litre of fuel at **NLe24**, but other fuel stations are selling at **NLe25** simply because we are encouraging healthy competition, rather than promoting cartelism. Therefore, I want you to encourage many more players to come into the sector. Your focus should not only be on the fees that you charge; you are not just a revenue generating entity for government; your purpose of existence is to ensure that people get access to petroleum products at a reasonable and affordable price.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you would agree with me that any increase in the pump price has both economic and ripple effects on almost every other sector of the pricing formula because the price of rice will increase and the cost of transportation will also soar. In fact, everything will increase when the price structure is disrupted. Therefore, it is our expectation that you do your best for this country. I am sure you are the first Deputy Director General of this Agency and that is why you should work with your boss in order to continue liberalising the petroleum sector. This is important because all of us depend on fuel; and if this is the case, we want to see more reduction in the pump price of fuel. All of us know what is happening around the world. In Uganda, almost every fuel station has its own pump price. This means it is not a crime for other people to sell below the government rate. This is where I also expect the communication sector to borrow a leaf from the petroleum sector. It is not a crime for a businessman to sell below the government price; it is only a crime if you sell above what is expected. For the communication sector, we have enacted a law that

criminalises those who are charging below/above the price per minute call. It is a crime in the telecom sector and I want to implore the communication sector to borrow a leaf from the petroleum sector. This is to make sure that we get a level playing field. I think it should be a crime to sell above **NLe 27,000**. I want to urge all other service driven MDAs that are regulated by the government to make sure they borrow a leaf from the petroleum sector.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the proposed Director General for the National Shipping Agency. When you look at his profile, you would realise that he is one of the longest serving employee of that institution. This means he knows the issues affecting the National Shipping Agency. He has served as Deputy Managing Director, under the leadership of Ahmed Saybom Kanu, who also transformed that sector to a point that before he left, he piloted a Bill through the Ministry of Trade that makes provision for a new Director General, instead of Managing Director. It was as a result of his hard work we are here today to approve your nomination for this new position created by that Act. I am sure he has learned so much from that man. Please make sure you put into practice the experiences you have gathered over the years. We want you to leverage on the advantages embedded in the Act. We have said that you as government national carrier and you can even make it **5%** of export or import, and that calls for greater responsibilities. Therefore, we expect it to be more competitive; we expect you to be more focused driven because you will know that you have a role to play to stimulate the economic challenges we are also facing as the nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to submit here that we have fine nominees before us. I therefore call on this House to consider the approval of their nominations. Thank you very much and God bless us all.

THE SPEAKER: Let me hear the voice of the lady before we round up the debates. Honourable Aaron A. Koroma has spoken for the House.

HON. UMU PYNE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand here to first of all thank the President for presenting these nominees to us. I want the nominees to know that they are the faces of Sierra Leone. I am sure my brother on the other side has said it all. I am very happy that the President always includes women in every appointment he makes and these women are not just women, they are women of substance.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please hold on for a moment. Honourable Members, at this stage, I wish to recognise the presence of the following dignitaries who are here with us this morning: Honourable Mima Soba Stevens, former Member of Parliament; Honourable Brian Conteh, a onetime Leader of this House and Lord of Bonthe District. He is here for his son, who is also my younger brother, Maada Lahai; we also have Rtd Major General David Taluva of the Sierra Leone Armed Forces and

former Minister of Internal Affairs; Honourable Alpha Kanu, a onetime distinguished Member of this House and Minister in various ministries, including Information and Communications and now Presidential Spokesman; Mr Roland S.V. Wright, Legal Practitioner of outstanding records. He is one of the senior practitioners of this country. He is also a lecturer in law. You will not be a lawyer in this country without knowing Roland S.V. Wright. He was the Speaker's lecturer as well; Mr Yankuba Bio, Director General of SLHPA; Mr Martin Maada George, Company Secretary, SLHPA; Mr Abubakar Kamara Esq., Deputy Company Secretary; and Madam Ismatu Sesay, Board Member of the National Shipping Agency. You are heartily welcome to the House of Parliament.

HON. UMU PYNE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I was saying, all of these nominees are overqualified and I am happy that we have our sisters among. I would like to start with my sister, Miss Jenneh Jabati. You are going to a sector that deals with money. Female MPs in the current Parliament are 42, representing **52%** of women in this country. I want you to look at all the documents that are forwarded to you in order to determine if there is anything for the women. In 2023, the Landlord Law Right for women was enacted and **80%** of our sisters in the villages are doing agriculture. We have to talk, on behalf of our sisters, to have access to loans. We have many women who are still in Prison because they have to pay loans. Let us help our sisters with loans with low percentage, so that they can be able to pay back. Many women are in prison because they were unable to pay their loans. Our sisters at Abacha Street are also in prison. Let us try very hard to help them with loans they can be able to pay back. We are here to represent them. We have a woman in Shenge who cannot come to the commercial banks in Freetown; but if the bank is within her reach, she will be able to access loans or funds at ease. We have the Barclays Bank in Moyamba, but if we have a very good system, she can go there. I stand here to talk to you about the situation of our women in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would also like to talk about my sister who has served the then Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service [SLBS], now called the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation [SLBC]. Today, she is going to serve in different capacity at the SLRA. I want you to know that men are taking advantage of us, especially when we are driving our vehicles in this country. We have about three or four of our sisters who are lying in their houses or hospitals because of accidents. When you go there, please ensure that our Keke drivers or our bike riders are thoroughly sensitised. They deserve all the praises because they have helped in transportation in this country, but they are very rough with the passengers when driving on the streets of Freetown, including the road leading to Parliament. There are lots of accidents on the roads, especially during weekends from Freetown to Kenema or from Freetown to Kono. The accidents are many these days and we need to do something as soon as possible.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am sure we have the youngest Youth Commissioner, Mr Maada Lahai. You are the right man in the right place. I know you will do it because you have been doing it. This is just to inform the youth that they have got a brother who will work in their interest. The youth are the future leaders and that is why we should address the problems affecting their progress. There are many youth on the streets, running after vehicles for money and some are looking for passengers. Why are they there in the first place? I want my colleagues to join us in approving these fine nominees. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I give the Floor to the Leader of the Opposition.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, early this year, I had the opportunity and privilege to represent my country at the World Summit in South Korea. In one of the sessions, I had the opportunity to make a statement. I will quote from the statement I made at the World Summit in South Korea. The statement was made in the presence of over 150 nations. It says: **"In Sierra Leone, more than 60% of our population is under the age of 25, this is both a challenge and a tremendous opportunity. If we equip this generation with educational skills and access to livelihoods, they can become drivers of climate solutions and engines of sustainable growth; but if we neglect the demographic pressure, compounded with climate stress, it will threaten social stability and environmental sustainability."** Mr Speaker, I deliberately made reference to this statement contingent on what is prevailing among our youthful population in Sierra Leone. I have always said that as youths, when you are given the opportunity to preside over the welfare of your colleague youths, it is not only a blessing, it is an opportunity and you will be held accountable for your stewardship, be it now or in future. Sometimes we treat carelessly the opportunity to lead our colleagues. Most of the MPs are youths and we are supposed to make life better for our age mates. It is believed that only a Ninja can stop a Ninja. In the past, we used to blame elderly people for the miserable life of our colleagues youths, but now the opportunities have been handed over to us to preside over the affairs and the wellbeing of our colleagues. So, we have no excuse at all.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have carefully examined the appointments made by His Excellency the President, especially the ones relating to the Ministry of Youth Affairs, the National Youth Service and the National Youth Commission. In fact, he has not only limited the appointments of young people to those offices, we now have young people heading other MDAs. It is because our population is generally made up of **60%** of youths. So, if you cannot solve the problems of your colleagues, what else would you do? The youth have graduated from castigating elderly people and the onus is on us to

hold ourselves responsible for the miserable lives of our colleagues. We have enormous work to do. When we hosted the ECOWAS Parliament Conference, we had educational sessions and there was a town hall session where confessions were made by the youths. They almost lost their track. We visited Kroo Bay, where we saw many young people whose future has been diverted. We saw the next generation of our country perishing and languishing in various places. This should be a legitimate concern. So, when you are given an opportunity to lead your colleagues, the burden is on you to better their lives; and if you failed, posterity will not forgive you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to start with the proposed Commissioner for the National Youth Commission, Mr Joseph Maada Lahai. In fact, when my shadows just darkened the Well of Parliament, I was given the opportunity to serve as Chairman for the parliamentary oversight Committee on Internal Affairs. So, I had the opportunity to monitor youth projects undertaken right across the country. These projects cannot be limited to just car wash facilities, there were other projects being sponsored by either UNDP or other agencies. I would like to look at the Car Wash Project, which I paraded across the country. I went to Moyamba, Bo and Port Loko to monitor some of these facilities. I am happy to state here that the initiative was good; but as a nation, we should graduate from Car Wash Project to a more innovative project for our youthful population. I am talking about issues affecting the youths with a heavy heart. In fact, two days ago, the Minister of Youth Affairs was at my resident in Lungi. He witnessed an interesting scene. One of my boys, Foday Kemokai, is a Mende by tribe and he has been with me for over ten years. Owing to Kush intake, he left his wife and kids, roaming the streets of Freetown. He no longer takes care of his family. He is on the streets, stealing without regard to his family. For the past four years, I have been taking care of his family; but because of Kush, he has abandoned his wife and kids. In fact, his youngest son bears my name, but he does not even know his father. The son calls me father. That shows the extent to which our next generation is corroding.

Additionally, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I took my elder sister's only son from the village and made sure that he gained admission at the Milton Margai Technical University. I paid his fee for the whole year and I even bought him a phone and other items. I used to give him **NLe500** per week as his lunch. He attended for only two weeks and absconded from home. After one week, somebody called to inform us that they saw him scavenging for scrapped metals, so that he could feed himself and buy Kush. He was now resident under the bridge at Aberdeen. His colleagues were provoking him, calling him the collegian. This shows how our next generation is eroding. They usually say, 'show me the quality of your youths and I will tell you how your nation will look like in future.' This is something we collectively have to work on as a nation. So, when you have an appointment, especially relating to supervising your

colleague young people, do not treat it with carelessness. It is a burden and that is why it is my wish and prayers that you succeed. This is because there are few things we should avoid, such as politicising developments. When you look at the young people that are being affected by drugs, they are from SLPP and APC. In other words, they are from every other political party and some of them are our relatives. We had the eleven years rebel war because our young generation was incapacitated to the extent that they became instrumental for those in high offices to take arms against their brothers and sisters. If we do not empower this generation, it is highly likely that they will be used in the future to cause further havoc. So, for the stability of our nation, it behooves us to make their business a priority. Please ensure that you depopulate the streets of our next generation. You have to keep them busy with projects. The Honourable Aaron A. Koroma spoke about the TVET Project and it is very essential for the youths. Please keep them engaged; let them know that they have a future in this nation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, let me look at the Office of the Ombudsman. Like the Speaker said, most of what we should say in this debate has already been said by the seconder of this Motion; but if I could make an addendum to what he has said, one other significant element we should take note of is the underfunding and capacity constraint of the Office of the Ombudsman. The budget is small and the staff are also small. He has a great job to do for the people of this nation. You cannot keep him in that Office without adequate funding. That is why we have other established institutions that are doing his job. So, one thing we should pay critical attention to is to ensure that in subsequent budgetary allocations, we pay attention to the Office of the Ombudsman. This is because the challenges are numerous. When we interviewed you, your disposition told us a whole lot of things. We were convinced to the extent that we did not even spend too much time with you. You have the capacity to perform. I have always said and I will continue to say that it is considered a criminal offence for somebody to discover water in the desert and be quiet about it. I do not want to be a criminal. You are a material and I pray that you use your capacity and knowledge to develop that institution. People consider it a taboo for a Member of the APC to say somebody in SLPP is a material, and people further consider it very disturbing for a Member of the SLPP to call a Member of APC a material. Section 26 of the 1991 Constitution makes it essentially clear that everybody has the right to his own political affiliation and nobody can take that from anybody. When somebody is good, regardless of his political affinity, we should not hesitate to publicly say it and that is what I am doing. I wish you well in that office. The challenges and the legal issues surrounding MDAs are numerous, which means you have a lot of work to do.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will go to the proposed Deputy Minister II of the Ministry of Finance. We have had several sentiments being expressed here by Members

of Parliament on your behalf. I am sure your capacity to perform has not been questioned; your composure has not been questioned; your credibility has not been questioned; and your academic qualification has not been questioned. That shows you have all the acumen for the office. However, at the end of the day, you will have to ask what you have changed in this office or what good has your appointment made to this office. We know we have several issues. Few days ago, the Minister of Finance was here and he is one of the friends of Parliament. I also hope that you will be a friend of this Parliament. We have just approved the supplementary budget and one thing that came out very clearly is our ability to strengthen the budget credibility. For example, in mid-2024, the Ministry of Works only received **16%** of what was approved by this House, while other ministries received more than that percent. You cannot have complete service delivery from MDAs if you do not give them adequate funds. Inadequate funding will strangulate government development plans and you cannot accomplish that if you do not broaden your revenue base. So, you have to ensure that you work very hard in order to deepen the domestic revenue mobilisation. You have to work very close with NRA to expand our tax base; you also have to ensure that we reduce tax evasion. The business people do not want to pay tax.

[Suspension of S.O. 5[2] being 3:00 p.m.]

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: We have to ensure that we institute proper modalities to increase the revenue base of government. Government cannot do everything, but with your level of experience and qualifications, I am sure you will have to increase the revenue base of government. We have seen a lot of struggles to raise revenue, to the extent that some valuable projects are deferred because of lack of funds. So, your entrance to the Ministry should create a positive change. I could remember when the Minister was here, we told him unequivocally that he tried to control some of the microeconomic data. So, the onus is on you and I pray that you succeed. As Opposition Members of Parliament, we want to assure you of our fullest cooperation wherever you need our support. We are doing this today for the SLPP because when we take over from them in 2028, we expect you to do the same for us. When the House is always quiet, I know how to ignite Members of Parliament to talk and that is what I am doing. I was expecting somebody to talk, but he did not talk. So, I am saying it again that we are lending our genuine services to SLPP because we expect that same level of reciprocity when we take over governance in 2028. Sierra Leone is a small nation and we have seen governments come and gone. This means no government will stay there forever. In fact, there will be a Commission of Enquiry for all Members of Parliament who did not vote for Mama. We want to see the photographs of your votes. She should have been the finest Deputy Chairman.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, because of the deliberate deprivation of our mama, the Executive did not even meet the threshold of **30%** female representation. They did not, but I am authoritatively assured in this House that whosoever from our side will contest for any national position, we would wholeheartedly support the person. I have noticed one thing and I said it yesterday. I will repeat it here. Yesterday, I took note of something when we were at the Commission's meeting. The SLPP leadership is so concerned about our election of flagbearer than the election of flagbearer of their party. I will tell you why. It is because they know that whosoever becomes the flagbearer of APC is the next President of this nation. So, they are particularly concerned about the next President. This reminds me of 2017, when APC was so concerned about the flagbearer of the SLPP. It was a sign that the SLPP was going to win the elections. This is a reflection of what is happening now. The fact that there is some exuberance about knowing who our next flagbearer is and who is ultimately going to be the next President of this nation is very important. I am being deliberate this morning. The level of supports our own MP, who is contesting for the flagbearer position of the APC, has got from the SLPP outweighs their own MP contesting for flagbearer. He is the former Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament. You deliberately abandoned your own song and sang ours. The President cautioned that nobody should campaign for flagbearer position of the SLPP until further notice. Maybe that is why you do not want to support your MP openly. APC is a democratic political party and it is a liberal party.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to talk about the proposed Deputy Director General of the National Petroleum Regulatory Authority. Of course, the need for a deputy came under the Act, due to the pressure surrounding the sales of petroleum products. I have known you for a while now and I have always said that the battle which seemed to have ended at the appointment has begun a new responsibility which you must fulfill. There are people who have served in various MDAs that Sierra Leoneans are not proud of because of how they conducted themselves in those offices. Petroleum products are one of the most crucial political goods. You have to do everything within your powers to ensure total transparency. When I said transparency, you should ensure price stability and fairness. You have to make the pricing formula for fuel accessible to the public. You should also strengthen the monitoring and enforcement by deploying people who will be going around, checking the fuel stations and how their calibration systems are done. You should also monitor the quality of the fuel they sell to the public and the pump price. In fact, this is the first time in history that Sierra Leone announces reduction in the pump price. It used to be those who sell fuel exercise their discretion to reduce the cost of fuel, to the extent that one of these stations was reprimanded for reducing the pump price. This should not come from fuel marketers; it should be your responsibility because your job is to seek the interest of

the ordinary Sierra Leoneans. I am sure once there is reduction in the pump price of fuel, there is a corresponding reduction in the prices of other goods and services. So, fuel is an essential commodity, but I do not doubt your capacity or your ability to perform; I do not doubt your willingness to serve. Please make sure you serve this nation judiciously and responsibly. I wish you well in your office and may God guide you in all the decisions you will be taking.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk about the proposed Board Member of the Sierra Leone Roads Authority, Haja Kadie Johnson. I am sure the small boys will not know this and even Honourable Members who are below that age will not have had the opportunity to listen to that radio programme called 'how dae go dae go.' That was a national programme that used to encourage people to go to their homes to listen that popular programme. There was always that sweet voice of Kadie Johnson. She has served this nation and may God bless you for your service to this nation. I could remember in your programme, you used to talk about the dilapidated road condition in this country. Today, you have been given the responsibility to fix the roads you once condemned. This is how time and purpose synchronise to harmonise the wheels of history. You now have the opportunity to fix the roads. I wish you well in that office and I pray that you demonstrate high level of commitments to your work.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I will end with the proposed Director General of the Sierra Leone Shipping Agency, Mr Mustafa Malisa. I learnt from his CV that that he has 17 years managerial experience with some knowledge in leadership skills. According to your CV, from 2021 to date, you have served as Deputy Managing Director of Sierra Leone Shipping Company. This means you have been part of the system and you know how the system works. You have to ensure that you execute your duties diligently. You have to protect your family's name by ensuring that everything you do should be in the interest of Sierra Leoneans. We would not wish any one of you to fail because when we travel out of Sierra Leone, we are in competition with other Members of Parliament from other African countries. We want to make our country better than those other African countries. That is why when appointments are made; we put you on your toes. We just do not clap for you; we just do not sing behind you; we just do not jubilate; we put you on your toes to let you know that you have a responsibility ahead of you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I know the challenges other people may have faced, but in a nutshell, I want to wish all of you the best. I pray that you succeed; I pray that you put the interest of this nation above personal interests. I wish you well and I want you to know that your names are now in the history of this country that you once served in those positions. If you cannot change or make those positions better, then you will have nothing to tell your children. Some of us are doing what we are doing

now because one day our children may want to know what their fathers and mothers were doing in Parliament, especially when it comes to crucial debates, voting and important decisions surrounding the progress of our nation. They will come here to check what we have been doing. So, this is a form of exonerating ourselves from castigations. I wish you well and I want to assure the Speaker and Leader of Government Business that these appointments are not controversial. When appointments are not controversial, we are left with no alternative but to join the Government Bench to expeditiously approve the nominees. Some of you who are being appointed now will be retained in your offices when the APC takes over governance. I have just sought the consent of our flagbearer aspirant and he said he would think about it. May God bless you and I wish you all the best. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I give the Floor to the Leader of Government Business.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank the Honourable Abdul Kargbo, who has vowed and preached in his Church that they will be in Opposition till death. Today, they have endorsed that and may the Lord answer that prayer by permanently keeping them in opposition. We are happy that they are seeing our nominees not appointed based on party cards or birth certificate or political affiliation, but by qualifications and service to this nation. We did not classify them because they are Temnes, Mendes or Lokos, or they come from a specific region; we classified them based on their resumes and our mantra is very clear in the minds of the people; 'one country, one people.' When we were in governance from 2002 to 2007, the then President of this nation was the Chairman of NASSIT. This shows how liberal our party has been. You can see this from the colourful convention we had and how we shared the love of interparty democracy. That is how we are and you should classify us by what we do; do not classify us by what you see. We are always doing the right thing. When we fail, the nation goes down.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today, you can see women and young people in positions of trust and that is why we said that in our democratic dispensation, it is a 'mixture of mixture.' We always consider the youths and gender parity. When I stand here to talk, I talk on behalf of the women. When I turned this way, I was not looking at my back because I was hitting my colleague to give space to the women. It is not a free flow business at all; it is not a pro bono business; we were arguing about the space; we were not talking about putting women in positions because we want to satisfy the **30%** quota of women representation. This is about the quality of women we put in positions of trust that gives way to Madam Jeneba Jabati. These are not ordinary people and that is why I said you should not judge us by rhetoric, otherwise the APC will be in governance with their austerity measures, and Attitudinal and Behavioural

Change. We speak simple jargon, **30%** political formula. However, we did not explain how we are going to put our women in positions of trust; not at the bottom level, but we place them in positions where they are adequately represented and they can see the value of what they have done for this nation. She has spent 35 years at the bank. This is not 35 days or 35 weeks. We are talking about 365 or 366 days per year and multiply that by 35 years.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, no matter what you say about us, these are good nominees we have this morning. In fact, when we talk about **30%**, it is not by accident because we take responsibility of what we are doing. President Bio is a living testament for every appointment. It is a collective calculation of how many women are in your Executive. The question is that does the **30%** only constitute these women? We have more than **30%** in these communities. That is the mathematical calculation we have done for the **30%**. However, we do not put square pegs in round holes. I am happy that the Leader of the Opposition tried to assess our nominees.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Jabati's long service at the Bank of Sierra Leone puts her in a very good position for her appointment. She has promised to provide an oversight responsibility to the same Bank of Sierra Leone after being approved as Deputy Minister. Her appointment was not because of her beauty, but because of her service to this nation. For me, it is not by political patronage; it is by what she has done for this nation. We are mindful of the things we have said. The reason we stay in governance is because of what we have done or what we have delivered to this nation. If you give me the answer, S.O.[2] Res price don go dong, petrol dae dong, inflation dae dong. I said we are moving like a rocket in the space. We are given a formula which I want my colleagues to understand. There is no way you are going to trigger it by your own words. We have set a pricing formula for the rice and this formula will positively affect everybody because we are one people, one country. It favours the North, East, South and Western Area. We made that formula based on certain variables. They said the price of rice will increase to **NLe1,500** per bag, but that was reversed. Now, the cost of a high grade bag of rice is **NLe650**, whether you like it or not. That is the price in the market and you can go to Kroo Town Road and find out. I have seen people jumping from one place to the other. We speak less, but with a lot of sense. When we said we have taken governance as one people and one country, that mantra resonates well with the ordinary man and woman. When we took over governance in 2018, we vouched to cater for the ordinary man and woman. We have looked at the formula and no matter what you do, the variables speak for themselves and those variables captured the Bank of Sierra Leone exchange rate; transportation was also captured.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk about the petroleum products. Our colleague is going as a Deputy Director General and that is a substantive position. I heard the Leader of the Opposition telling him to do certain things. I want to tell him to work together with his boss and the entire team. He said in his interview that: **"I will just be a servant, dedicated to my boss. That is the service I will discharge."** His boss was here a month ago for his approval. We asked him what he has done with petroleum products. He said they had depoliticised the petroleum products. That is what you have done with the pricing formula. We brought the formula to suit the ordinary man and woman. You might not like us, but the benefits you are enjoying emanate from the good policies of President Bio. You cannot take it from us at all. That is why we call him the father of democracy. Bob Nesta Marley once said, 'he who feels it knows it.' A man from Tihun knows the sufferings of the ordinary man. He took up governance and promised to fix this nation; it is not too much of talking; it is not by austerity or globalisation; you must garnish it with policies that can change the lives of people. Nobody tells my story better than I do. Mr Koba, you are here for approval and if all goes well in this Chamber today, you will be the Deputy Director General of that institution. When we took over governance, there was scarcity of fuel in this country; but today, the Oil Marketing Companies [OMCs] are chasing us. In fact, if you have read his resume, he said that analytical experience and qualifications would help to fix the problem and that is what we are doing now. It is because we feel for people and we have a vision that the only way we can change the narratives is to ensure that the ordinary man benefits. There are people who have acquired so much wealth at the expense of the ordinary man. Today, they are chasing the Ministers all over the place, S.O.[2] 'bo mek we meet en talk.' We are now moving as if we are in the United States because of good policies. We are changing the dynamics in this country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if you go to Saudi Arabia, you would realise that ten years down the line, they are still using the gallon instead of litre. When the APC took over governance, I was sitting over there as opposition MP. They changed from gallon to liter. I argued them at that time, but nobody listened to me. I said you should not do it, but they said that was the standard. I am sure the UK and America are still using the gallon. You came with your jargons, deceptive attitude and bad governance or bad administration. If you convert a gallon into liters, you would realise a huge difference. They were talking about affordability and we did not grumble at all. Let us accept for argument sake, but we want to ensure affordability by the ordinary man. We can go into some mathematical calculations. We did the calculations here. Honourable Foday Rado Yokie stood there and challenged them that if you do the calculations for the price of one gallon, it is more than what you have given us. We did not grumble that we cannot purchase a gallon of fuel at that time. You came with a fake formula in this

country. Mr Speaker, people who were in charge of making decisions had shares in these oil companies. So, they came with a formula.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: I do not expect this debate to be controversial. I want the Leader to be very careful when referring to one of the best political parties in Sub-Saharan Africa by bringing 'a fake formula.'

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader, please be guided.

HON. MATHEW S.NYUMA: Mr Speaker, I did not call names. 'When dry bones are mentioned, the old woman becomes uneasy.' I said they came with a fake formula.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Leader, do not forget that you need the Opposition for the approval of your nominees

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: I said they came with fake formula. I was giving a story about Kush and I gave you a story on why we stay in governance. I am saying that policies affect people's lives directly and that is why we should not skew policies for our comfort. I was talking about petroleum products and I said I was going to use Madam Jabati to explain why we have her as the Deputy Minister, if approved by this House. They need to learn because they are now in opposition and they have decided and accepted to be in opposition. It is good for you to have some education from us. On a very serious note, let us forget about whether fuel is in liters or gallons. We are in charge and our responsibility is to make them uncomfortable and make our consumers comfortable. We have succeeded in bringing them to the table to negotiate.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the third reason we stay in governance has to do with the issue of inflation. I know it is over ten years now we have not had single digit inflation. This is the first time we are getting it after years. I want us to understand that policies have to do with these nominees we put in offices. We have to be very careful not to play politics with these appointees. What we are doing is that we are trying to put people in positions of trust, so that we can succeed. We want to keep the APC in permanent opposition because they are very good when they are in opposition.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have given the House the formula. The last time I used the Chemistry formula. I said if you use water, the product you are expecting is a universal solvent. If you combine hydrogen and oxygen, when conditions remain constant or under the desired temperature, the product you will get is water as it is a universal solvent. We are using the same water formula to make sure that governance is structured for the good of all. I have talked about the economic viability of good policies. You would agree with me that good policies make our people comfortable. You do not need to shout about it. I do not need to tell Mr Koba that his life is better. I have been to the market and I have seen what is happening there. I do not need to say we

are moving faster as expected. It has to do with the people in government. So, bringing some of these things is for us to understand that government is about service delivery. These nominees are expected to work very hard, so that we can get the desired result.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, as the Opposition Leader mentioned, we are very clear in our minds that resources are limited and we are operating a cash budget. This means that what we collect is what we use to provide basic social amenities. This is where we must use the scale of preference because of the challenging nature of our revenue. The Minister said here that we must stream down our expenditure; we must look for priority areas because when revenue is not enough, we are bound to make scale of preference. That is what he presented to us here, but he was talking about maximisation of revenue mobilisation. How do we maximise revenue? We need to come together and automate our system. There should be no human interference into the system. The physical involvement of humans is giving us a lot of problems. When I was Chairman of the Information and Communications Committee, we went to Tali, Estonia to understudy how they used the automated system for tax collection. They created their own formula. In fact, Estonia is one of the best countries in the world whose revenue turnout is almost **100%**. If you do not pay tax, trust me you cannot even do bank transactions. Everything is automated. So, we are presenting this story on several occasions to the Ministry of Finance. It is a fact that revenue is challenging; it is a fact that the world is becoming greedy every day; it is a fact that we need to finance our own programmes; but if you do not pay tax or you are refusing to pay tax, how do we finance our own programmes? This is why we are bringing people like Madam Jabati who has integrity. We want to make sure that there is integrity in the system. When we shall have brought the automated system to collect revenue, we will not say the revenue shortfall. The resources are here, but the diversions are too many. We want to encourage you that when you get to your office, please do the needful. We are recruiting you to be part of the innovations. I am sure the automated system is the best for revenue collection. ICT cannot fail if you interfere with the system because the evidence will be there. All of what we are saying makes sense to us. If we have people in these offices that discharge exactly what we have put on paper, we will be fine as a country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk about the Ombudsman. It is a very important position. When I started, I referred to the Constitution and that is why I recited it in the presentation. However, one thing that was very clear in my mind is that the humility of the nominee is stunning. During his interview, he gave us a lot of adorations. He was very open to us and we came to the conclusion that he knows what he is going to do. He told us certain things that have to do with the Office of the Ombudsman. We asked how he intends to discharge his duties. He made reference to

his wife and I am sure somebody who loves and cherishes his wife or family can serve this nation well. He is adequately qualified based on what we have on paper. He is going to serve Sierra Leoneans from diverse areas of operations and he is going to be the conduit between the people who have been disadvantaged and the administration of the day. He told us that if he is given this job, he would serve with integrity. You can tell that he is a man of integrity from his resume and I hope you will continue to do your best. Sometimes it is not about money. We call Madam Jabati a friend of Mr Speaker. Let me remind you of Section 62 of the 1991 Constitution. As it pleases the President, you can be hired and fired at any time. I made reference to this provision because out of seven million Sierra Leoneans, you have been selected to serve in positions of trust. So, we are expecting you to serve everybody, irrespective of tribes, regions or gender. Please serve them very well. When you are employed, you must be fired if you do not perform.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to talk about Mr Lahai. Mr Bob Nesta Marley once said, 'emancipate yourself from mental slavery.' The farthest point we can go is to put in place policies that will change the lives of our people. We cannot force you to change your life, but we can guide you on how you can tailor your life, so that you can be like the Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma or the Honourable Abdul Kargbo or President Bio. The only way you can take the mantle of leadership is when you consider yourself as a serious person. The first law of nature is 'self-preservation.' We have enacted laws here to make sure that drugs addiction is not part of our lives. They always blame the politicians. In fact, five or seven years down the line, Honourable Mohamed Sidi Tunis was here, but he later became Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament. This means integrity takes you to a higher height. It is not the Commission that is going to change your life; it has to do with your very self. You blame politicians for being useless. Politicians would not want to use the people they are representing. You have to make yourself useful. If a politician is campaigning, you have to listen to the message he/she is giving out and put yourself to the message. Do not allow us to use you because the youth population is like a pyramid; you form the bottom, which is half of the pyramid. We rely on you to take over the mantle of leadership; but if the pyramid is broken right at the bottom, Sierra Leone will be a failed nation. This is not rhetoric at all. If I was taking drugs; if I was not a serious person, I would not have been here. I am here today because I studied very well; I placed myself in a position I wanted to be today. I graduated from being a teenager to young adult. Today, I am here, serving this nation. I came here as one of the youngest person in the Opposition Bench. Today, I am the youngest Leader of Government Business.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, today, we have the youngest Speaker in Parliament. If you are going to look at politicians to handfeed you, you are not going to succeed in

life. The only policy that can change your life is when you adhere to the laws we have passed in this House. We have passed the State of Emergency to combat Kush and other synthetic drugs, but people are still taking them. You are dying slowly and they are making money. People are suffering because of the intake of drugs. There is a law, but you prefer the policemen to chase you all over the place. You have to take a mirror and look at yourself properly. Please stand in front of the mirror and look at yourself and see if you resemble the person that is doing good to others. Nobody is going to change your life; you have to change your own life. Drugs addiction cannot take you anywhere; but if you are a drug addict, you have decided to be a useless person because you are taking drugs. You should not allow people to use you. You can be nowhere in this nation if you allow them to use you. We cannot even consider you as somebody. They can just use and dump you. This is what some of these politicians do. Some of us who are very serious will try to change the lives of young people by making policies that affect them positively. That is why I said you should 'emancipate yourself from mental slavery.'

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are different levels of making someone very useful. President Bio has vision for the young people. We have the opportunity to acquire university qualifications, but most of them do not even have a Technical and Vocational qualifications. We can understand the fact that majority are from a very poor background. That is why we introduced the Free Quality Education, so that they can get some amount of education. The only way you can change a nation is when you are educated; and the only way to change your narrative is when you are educated. Education is the key to our lives; education is the only way out for us; education can change the narratives of our young people. If you allow yourself to be used by people because they are educated, you are making a big mistake. They cannot tell their children to take drugs, but they come to you and give you drugs. They give you drugs during their political campaigns. Do not accept drugs from them. You have to reject them. Those people are evil in society. That is what they can give you. We have passed the State of Emergency to combat Kush intake in this country, but people are still taking it. You do not allow Honourable Mathew S. Nyuma to go after you; do not allow me to go to the ghettos to say, S.O[2], lef for take Jamba; lef for take kush; lef for take tramadol. Please cleanse yourself, and you can be useful in the society.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some of us look good and even bluff around because we are educated. The only way we can change our lives is through education, no matter the level of education. The Car Wash Project is doing well because most of the young people are now engaged. That is not a point to take drugs; it is meant to transform the lives of young people. Please go back to those policies and find out why we decided to establish the car wash centers. We have also created a simple Micro

Credit Scheme, but people are still indulged in taking drugs. S.O,[2] you go take sheep na wata sie, but you nor go fos am for drink. If approved by this House, please do your best in changing the face of this nation. I am sure changing this nation lies in our hands, especially the young people. The only way we can move forward is for us to take the policies we have put in place very serious. We do not want people to use politics to intoxicate our young people. We are now looking for a formula where the Opposition will come on board and serve this nation. It is no longer a winner takes all and that is why we reintroduced the PR system. We wanted political inclusion, especially the youths and the women. We have passed the stage where you see your political opponent as enemy.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of Government Business, let me state here that yes, the PR System is the best for Parliament, but since we are now doing the constitutional review, I would also add that the PR System must be extended to the Executive because it has worked effectively for Parliament. I strongly believe that if we can extend it to the Executive, we will not be desperate when it comes to elections. The winner takes all electoral system has been dividing this nation. This is because somebody in another political party thinks that if we do not win, we are out for good. The person is definitely going to be desperate; but if we have a system where after elections, we divide Executive positions based on the percentage attained at the elections, nobody will be so desperate. I think there is a way we can work that out. It is necessary that we have a system of governance that is power sharing driven, so that at the end of every elections everybody will be happy even if he/she lost the elections. If that happens, this nation will not be desperate; our citizens will not be desperate because at the end of the day, everybody thinks if we go into elections and we do not win, we are out for five years or ten years. When you threaten a man's existence, that person is going to be extremely desperate. I am just sending this message for national arguments or national conversation. We should be thinking about this very seriously, since it has worked effectively for Parliament; I believe it can also work for the Executive Branch. When we came to Parliament, we divided committees by political parties. We have the Opposition party managing certain committees. Let us assume that these Committees were Ministries, we will find a way of crafting it in our Constitution and they will still be under the control of the President. If you are nominated by your party and appointed by the President, but if in the course of executing your duties you misbehaved, the President can still get rid of you and ask your party to nominate somebody else that will bring some form of control. We need some kind of power sharing system after elections, otherwise the more desperate we will become every time we have an election and it is not good for national cohesion. I am just thinking aloud. This is a pinch of salt for national conversation.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, as an addendum to what the Leader of Government Business has said. Sir, based on the fact that currently they are implementing recommendation 78 of the Tripartite Committee, which calls for public consultations and dialogue on the electoral system, I am sure that they are arranging the regions of this nation in respect of the kind of electoral system Sierra Leoneans will prefer. I want to suggest that we have an allotted date, dedicated for the electoral system, so that Members of Parliament can give their opinions, which are semblance of the opinions of the people we are representing.

THE SPEAKER: I think it is good for democracy, but we can have a Sierra Leonean brand of democracy. I believe other countries will copy from us. If, for example, we go into elections and the APC gets **40%** while the SLPP gets **60%** what is wrong for APC to have **40%** of ministries, **40%** of embassies, **40%** Boards or **40%** parastatals? With this arrangement, this nation will be united because at the end of the day, nobody will be desperate and everybody will be happy. The President will still be in control. Like the Opposition Leader said, we need to set aside a day for some form of conversation or debate relating to this issue. What we have now is dividing this nation. As we speak, the unity of the country is just about lip service. Let us be united; Sierra Leone has to be united. If you want somebody to sacrifice, provide the basic. When you provide the basic, you can tell the individual to sacrifice. You want somebody to make roads when you have not provided food for the person. You should sacrifice for your community.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: Mr Speaker, according to S.O.[42], you have the utmost decision to make in this House. I want you to exercise restraint and make your own decision or your own position very clear. Your opinions are greatly influenced.

THE SPEAKER: I am just waiting for the time when the constitutional review document will be brought here to make a clear position on what I think, as Speaker of this House. It is necessary for the national cohesion. If you look at the Chinese model of democracy, you would find out that they practice a form of democracy, but their model is different from what we have here. We can create ours that will ensure national cohesion. We do not need textbook democracy. We know our barriers; we know our aspirations; we know the way we think; and we know the way we behave. Let us have our own brand of democracy.

HON. ABDUL KARGBO: I have listened to you carefully and I want to state here that someone could be a Member of Parliament from Texaco, but that MP will tell you that because of the introduction of the PR System, there is no MP from Texaco.

THE SPEAKER: We can even create a constituency block system, if we have problems with the district block system. We can have the constituency block system or a system where we can divide the country into constituencies and we will still use the same

method for every constituency to be represented. So, there is nothing wrong with that, Honourable Members. We can even decide to cascade it to the chiefdom level, where all chiefdoms can be represented. It is a matter of national conversation, but that will be for another day.

HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA: This is just a drop in the ocean, so that people can start thinking positively. I am a positive radical and those who are in the House can testify. I will wait for that day. I am very mindful of my words whenever I am discussing with people or even my colleagues on the other side. I do not believe in pretense with my colleagues. As leaders, we should be mindful of what we say because whatever we say goes a long way to incite people. That is why we often say things that are very interesting. We should not say things that can destroy this nation. Today, the only change we can get is empowering the young people. It is not easy to bring a good man down. You have all gone through the ranks. I encourage you to copy from us, especially the good things we have been doing. You should try and get a mentor. These policies can only be effective if you are with us. That is why we are always open to the public. We are in a position to support the policies you bring to us. We also thank you for showing courage. We understand that this is a post war country.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, remember that the women are benefiting today. You should not make policies because of an individual; you make policies for the good of all. I am happy with the Public Elections Act, 2022. It costs us a lot to have that law in place, but we are happy because we have over **30%** of women directly elected as Councilors and MPs. Sometimes it is difficult for us to take certain decisions, but for the good of this nation, we just have to take those decisions. President Bio said that he preferred to betray friends than the nation. He preferred to betray individual interest and put the nation first. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for mentioning this issue. You have elucidated very well on the PR System. We have a good number of women representations in Parliament and President Bio is doing very well by having women in positions of trust. So, we continue in that trajectory. I thank you very much for supporting us and I thank the Opposition as well. They always try to oppose in a positive manner and I like the issues you have raised. You said that we need to follow up on the things we are doing because when you stay in opposition for far too long, our policies are going to keep us in governance till we are tired.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank you for trying to create a platform where all of us can look ourselves as Sierra Leoneans and not as opponents or enemies. Let us put the interest of Sierra Leone first and that is what matters to me. My best friend, Honourable Chernor Maju Bah, has been talking about political association for over 30 years. I will play with him, but we are not in the same political party. He is a

man I admire so much. We should work very hard to change this nation. When we took the platform as leaders, people do not trust us. It is not what you see or what you have delivered. Today, we are talking about the Mano River Union Parliament because of the robustness of our leadership. We want to thank those who have contributed to change the face of this nation. Nobody is going to do it for us. We thank the nominees very much. If the question is put and agreed, I wish you well. I know people face lots of questioning from us, but that is what we have to do. We want to make sure there is integrity in the House. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and colleagues. May Lord bless us all.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members. I move that the 15th Report of the Second Session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be approved.

[Question Proposed, Put and agreed to]

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

THE SPEAKER: Let me, at this stage, take this opportunity, on behalf of Parliament and the Republic of Sierra Leone, to congratulate you on your approval. I urge you to go to those offices and do something different. The offices you have been appointed to serve were once occupied by Sierra Leoneans, but as I often say, Sierra Leone has not made much progress since independence. So, when you go to those offices, try to do something different. You are going to meet people who tend to sway you from what you want to do, but try as best as possible for God and country. Congratulations and you may leave.

V. GOVERNMENT'S MOTION

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

ALHAJI FANDAY TURAY *[Minister of Transport and Aviation]*: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the following Agreements which were laid on the Table of this House on Tuesday, 29th July 2025:

- i. the Concession Agreement for Bulk and Break-Bulk Terminal at Queen Elizabeth the II Quay, dated 28th November, 2017. Concession Agreement by and among Sierra Leone Ports and Harbours Authority and the Government of Sierra Leone, represented by the Ministry of Transport and Aviation and the National Commission for Privatisation [NCP], an Agency of the Government of Sierra Leone and Nectar Group Limited, Nectar Sierra Leone Bulk Terminal Limited [NSTL], dated 3rd June 2025.
- ii. Amendment No. 2 to the License Agreement for the Bulk and Break-Bulk Terminal and Container Terminal, Dated 4th June 2025. This amendment involves SLPHA, the

Government of Sierra Leone, NCP, Africa Global Logistics, and African Terminal Limited.

- iii. Addendum No. 5 to the Concession Agreement for Container Terminal at Queen Elizabeth the II Quay by and among Sierra Leone Ports and the Government of Sierra Leone and National Commission for Privatisation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the NSPT is a British owned Company with concession to operate **80%** of the Bulk and Break-Bulk Cargo at the Ports in Freetown. A License Agreement was signed in 2015 to carry out such operations, but was reviewed in 2017 into a Concession Agreement, giving them the right to operate **80%** of the Bulk and Break-Bulk Cargo at the Ports in Freetown, with a condition to develop a new berth with a view to accommodating more vessels in the country. NSPT has built a new port extension, consisting of a new berth to accommodate larger vessels and reclaim the land to increase storage facility. Construction of the berth has been completed and it is already in use. NSPT has invested significantly in the Ports since taking over the concession and continues to improve the facilities and capacities at the Bulk Terminal. The construction cost was in the range of **50mIn United States Dollars** and a 10-year extension period has been granted. This will now be extended to 2046.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, please sit down.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, at this stage, I wish to recognise the presence of certain dignitaries who are here with us. I wish to recognise the presence of Alhaji Alpha Kallon, former Deputy National Chairman of the great SLPP; Mr Patrick M. Gibrilla, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs; Mr David N. Borbor, Director General, Financial Intelligence Agency; Mr Emerson Kamara, Deputy Commissioner, Youth Commission; Mr Desmond Pessima, SLPP, North America Regional Chair; Sally Benjamin, Vice Regional Chairman, North America; Mr Solomon Palmer, Chairman, Washington Branch; Mr Ahmed Balling, Chairman, Virginia Branch; Madam Kula Sillah, Chairman, Boston Branch; Mr Moses Fatorma, Chairman, Minnesota Chapter; Mr Ibrahim Koroma, Chairman, Seattle, Washington Chapter; Mr Ibrahim Sannoh, Minister of Youth Affairs. You are heartily welcome to the House of Parliament. Thank you very much for coming.

ALHAJI FANDAY TURAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Freetown Terminal Limited [FTL] operates **100%** of the Freetown Ports Container Terminal. They also operate **20%** of the Bulk and Break-Bulk Cargo at the Freetown Ports. However, berths 3,4,5, and 6 have faced considerable deterioration. An expert opinion revealed that the said berths would collapse in no time and that will lead to potential economic downturn. In other words, it may affect Sierra Leone's economy adversely. It was necessary that

rehabilitations of the said berths are undertaken without further delay. The following represents a proper purpose and description of the request:

- i. FTL shall provide funds to the tune of **25mln United States Dollars** to undertake urgent rehabilitation work;
- ii. a committee comprising nominations from the government of Sierra Leone and FTL shall be constituted to supervise and ensure that the project is fully implemented;
- iii. an independent engineer shall be appointed by the committee who will be directly responsible for the project and work with the selected company that is doing the rehabilitation works; and
- iv. FTL, in return of the **25mln Dollars** funding to rehabilitate the berths has been given additional five years extension on their Concession Agreement with the Government of Sierra Leone. This will terminate in 2046. The Agreement with FTL in respect of Bulk and Break-Bulk and that of Concession Agreement have almost expired.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Sierra Leone has a strategically located Port with a deep water Harbour. It is important to develop better facilities as the container are major gateways in and out of the country for essential commodities, such as rice, sugar, cement, flour, grains, etc. By extending the concessions of NSBT and FTL, it allows the concessionaires to invest further and finance other projects to improve warehousing equipment and attract further traffic through the terminal and the ports of Sierra Leone. Both concessionaires continue to work alongside the Sierra Leone Ports and Harbour Authority to improve the Ports and keep pace with neighboring countries. The review includes increasing revenue flow for the government through new initiatives, economic benefits and beneficiaries. The NSPT new berth has a current operational drought of 12meters. This can be increased to 13.5meters later if the vessels size continues to grow. Vessel sizes of 225meters in length can now be handled and importers can bring large tonnages on the same vessel stores, reducing freight and import costs to the end users. A storage land that has been reclaimed from the seaweed will eventually serve as a warehouse. Beneficiaries include importers, traders and consumers who benefit from a more efficient port with modern facilities.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these Agreements are more than just a blueprint for infrastructure. This is the vision of his Excellency the President, Rtd Brigadier Julius Maada Bio for the future of this nation. It encapsulates our commitments to growth, progress and prosperity. I humbly call on this House to support the project, recognising the enormous benefits it will bring to our beloved nation and our people. On that note, be it resolved that this Honourable House ratify the following Agreements which were laid on the Table of this Honourable House on Tuesday, 29th July 2025:

- i. the Concession Agreement for Bulk and Break-Bulk Terminal at Queen Elizabeth Quay, dated 28th November, 2017. Concession Agreement by and among Sierra Leone Ports and Harbours Authority and the Government of Sierra Leone, represented by the Ministry of Transport and Aviation and the National Commission for Privatisation [NCP], an Agency of the Government of Sierra Leone and Nectar Group Limited, Nectar Sierra Leone Bulk Terminal Limited [NSTL], dated 3rd June 2025.
- ii. Amendment No. 2 to the License Agreement for the Bulk and Break-Bulk Terminal and Container Terminal, Dated June 4, 2025. This amendment involves SLPHA, the Government of Sierra Leone, NCP, Africa Global Logistics, and African Terminal Limited.
- iii. Addendum No. 5 to the Concession Agreement for Container Terminal at Queen Elizabeth the II Quay by and among Sierra Leone Ports and the Government of Sierra Leone and National Commission for Privatisation.

[Question Proposed]

THE SPEAKER: I just wanted us to round up, but I will give you five minutes?

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: It is not good for documents to be brought here and we do not let the people to know what the documents are all about. I have keenly listened to the Minister of Transport and Aviation and the truth of the matter is that we are just doing an expansion of an already existing structure. We now understand what it means to capture the market and also to expand our tax base. It is no more a story to us. Our country is still rated among the high risk countries for vessels. I want to see what will come out of that kind of scenario. This is because one of the things that affects our sea transportation is the high risk of countries where ships come to, but the taxes in Sierra Leone are always very high. Sometimes Government should reduce the taxes. The cost of our cargos from Water Quay remains very high. As a nation, we must understand that as long as we continue to have high taxes, it will reflect directly on the market prices. So, expanding this port and having more vessels to come to the country will give us more revenue. It will also reduce our taxation level because the more vessels we have, the more traffic we expect for a reduction in taxation.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, expanding the port is not just an opportunity for taxation, but it is also an opportunity to capture landlocked countries within West Africa. We have said this many times in this Well. When you look at the distance from Freetown to Mali, it is shorter if we have the Kamakwie Road in place. I think the Honourable Member from Kamakwie is not here, but he can testify to what I am saying. We have said this over and over. We are now expanding the Ports; and expanding the Ports will increase our internal trade. We have to ensure that we build the roads that will link us to other landlocked countries within West Africa. We saw it recently when

Guinea had shortage of petrol supply. They depended on us for fuel supply. It means if they depended on us, it is an opportunity for Mali to know that it is better to do business with Sierra Leone than even going to Guinea. This is because the route from Conakry to Mali, it is longer than the route from Freetown to Mali. One of the things we have not done is accessing the roads. Sometimes they think that certain roads are meant for political gains. I am sure they are also meant for economic gains. The Kamakwie Road leading to Guinea is very advantageous for us. I know that when they say Kamakwie, some of you will bring politics into it. These are the Sierra Leoneans we have in this country. They view certain regions as political opportunity, instead of economic opportunity.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please ignore them.

HON. ABDUL K. KAMARA: I have done that long ago, Mr Speaker. I just wanted to hear them and for the country to know that these are MPs they have elected to come to Parliament and this is why they did not want a constituency based election because the people will reject them.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I was talking about the expansion and the opportunity we will have internationally. We should not just limit this opportunity to domestic trade. If we do that, it is just us, the citizens that will buy what we consume and the taxes will continue to increase. This is because even when we have the Ports, we will not have high traffic regarding imports and exports. So, it is good for us to think about how we attract these countries. It is shameful to note that Sierra Leoneans import vehicles through Guinea and drive them to Sierra Leone. What is wrong with us? If you think this is political, then you need prayers. We are serious about this and we must ensure that we address this issue. These are expansion projects and what we need to do as a Parliament is to speedily ratify them. However, we should also bring to the notice of the relevant authorities to understand our position, whether by the sea or by air, is shorter to most countries where these exportations and importations are done. We must be prepared to ensure that we harness other markets because Sierra Leone alone cannot do much. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The initiative before us is by no doubt the best. If it is done properly, Sierra Leone stands to gain a lot. I am pleased to mention few improvements and I will not give up. I will continue to raise those concerns with empirical evidence or verifiable evidence. I am sure Statutory Instruments or Agreements brought before this House need some form of thorough perusal before they are laid and debated. There are certain MDAs like NaTCA that follows those directives. I am pleased to also tell you that the Chairman of the Legislative Committee is my best Chairman since I came to Parliament. This is my third

term in Parliament and he has proved to be my best Chairman. He can attest to the fact that NaTCA engaged the Committee on Communications and also the Legislative Committee to go through their Regulations. Mr Speaker, you can consult the Management team of NaTCA to tell you their experience.

THE SPEAKER: He is your best Chairman, but I am beginning to have a rethink about his chairmanship. I gave him specific instruction, but he violated it. I told him that no document should go out without me viewing it, but he violated that instruction. I am having a rethink about his chairmanship.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: If I had known, I would have also had a rethink about it. Anyway that is grave, but he would not repeat that again. Maybe I am a different man, but that was my opinion. Mr Speaker, you can contact the Management team of the Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission. That institution is being manned by two different ministries; the Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Energy. Their Regulations are with us as we speak. They engaged the relevant parliamentary Committees, such as the Committee on Water Resources and the Committee on Energy, but they were presided over by the Legislative Committee. Let them tell you their experience. There was a very senior lawyer from the Law Officers Department. I have forgotten his name, but he is a very smart lawyer. You can ask him regarding what we discovered. It was so grave that if those Regulations would were laid here as they were, you would have regretted being a Sierra Leonean. A lot of fatal mistakes were made, but because they adhered to those concerns, we were able to make them better until we have the new Bill enacted into law. What is in existence now is the 2011 Act and we are yet to enact a new Bill into law. You can contact Audit Service Sierra Leone because they did the same thing. I think there are two or three other MDAs and the Chairman can attest to that. I will show you certain portions of these Agreements and you would also regret it. What is grave in the Agreements before us is the fact that they are all amendments or addendum amendments to what we have ratified earlier. So, as far as I am concern, if we want to amend what Parliament has earlier ratified, what is wrong if you bring your draft before the relevant Committee? We want to do this amendment. How do you see it as people's representative? Is that wrong

[House stood down for five minutes]

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: Mr Speaker based on Section 170 Sub-section 7, we either annulled or we accept. So, we continue to raise these issues in order to avoid a repeat of the same mistakes. Some MDAs have complied. I cannot name all of them, but they have got better results. So, in as much as I am not here for annulment because it is a government document, but we are pleading that they remind the MD that Parliament should be informed about some of these Agreements before they are

laid here. This is to ensure that whatever issue we noticed at that stage, we can discuss it there and agree or disagree before they are laid. There will be no issue because we could have addressed all the problems. We cannot invoke Section 170, Sub-section 7 at this time. We cannot annul and that is not I am here to do. I am here to avoid a repeat of documents coming here without notifying Parliament. That is my submission on behalf of the Opposition.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. You are a great Leader of the Opposition. This is how I want Parliament to operate. There are certain things we can resolve before they are brought to this Well and there will be no arguments. Thank you very much, Honourable Members for your patience.

HON. SAA E. LAMINA: Thank you very much. I consider these three Agreements to be non-controversial:

- addendum to the Concession Agreement made on the 25th November 2017;
- addendum No. 5 of the Concession Agreement in Freetown Terminal Ltd; and
- addendum to No. 2 of the Licenses Agreement of Freetown Terminal Ltd, which deals with the Ports and Bulk Operations of the Freetown Ports.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I consider these Agreements to be non-controversial. Therefore, I will lay my credence for their speedy ratifications. However, I would like to talk about few things. The State Owned Enterprises Act is already working. I can see competition and flexibility in these Agreements. Mr Speaker, even though the State Owned Enterprise Act is at the Committee Stage, but it is already working in these Agreements. I can see the continuity of governance, which is very good for this country. This is a 2015 Agreement that was ratified by the same Parliament and it was reviewed in 2017. This is now 2025 for the Agreements to be reviewed. The APC led government ratified this Agreement in 2015 and reviewed it in 2017. Today, the SLPP led government is reviewing Agreement by giving it an addendum and this is good for Sierra Leone's development. We do not want to see one of the bridges collapses and begins to provoke presidential initiative budget. Therefore, the Managers of Water Quay are so swift and wise. I commend you highly because you have foreseen the pending dangers ahead. Therefore, you have already entered into an Agreement for expansion. Yesterday, I was in Conakry and when I saw their Ports, I thought about the economic benefit it brings to the economy of Guinea.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are two key areas I would talk about. The strategic and relevance of Water Quay in this Agreement makes it strategically relevant, as well as the economic benefits it would bring to this country. Two years ago, government received less than a million dollars; but today, just the Concession fee is about **15mln Dollars**. I am sure every year, **5mln Dollars** increase is huge and by

the time it is expanded, Sierra Leone will become a great nation. As author of the 2010 Development Plan of Kono District Council, I came to the realisation to utilise there are three things to improve our economy. The first one is trade and Water Quay is a fine catalyst for trade. The second thing is agriculture and the third one is mining. If these three things are fully utilised, a powerful Agreement like this would boost our economy if you give the opportunity to more importers and exporters. Mr Speaker, without any controversy, I should commend the Minister for bringing this Agreement and the Managers of Water Quay. Thank you very much. No doubt our economy will begin to grow because of the expansion of the Quay. I want to implore Members of the Opposition, the Paramount Chiefs Members of Parliament and the Ruling Bench to ratify this Agreement. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

ALHAJI FANDAY TURAY: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I am overwhelmed by the sentiments expressed so far by the Opposition as well as the Ruling Bench.

THE SPEAKER: Mr Minister, if I have not told you to talk, you should not talk. Please sit down. While I am seated here, I am also involved in administration. That is why once in a while I pick up my phone to make calls. So, until I tell you to talk, you should not talk. This is not your Ministry where Members of Parliament go and you do not respect them. This is Parliament. You now have the Floor.

ALHAJI FANDAY TURAY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have just been guided for the future. I want to thank Members of Parliament for alluding to the fact that this Agreement is non-controversial and it is in the best interest of this country. The expansion and rehabilitation only make our Ports better and more attractive to more foreign investors, and we attract investors from landlocked countries as well. On that note, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, be it resolved that this Honourable House hereby ratify the following Agreements which were laid on the Table of this Honourable House on 24th July, 2025:

- i. the Concession Agreement for Bulk and Break-Bulk Terminal at Queen Elizabeth Quay, dated 28th November, 2017. Concession Agreement by and among Sierra Leone Ports and Harbours Authority and the Government of Sierra Leone, represented by the Ministry of Transport and Aviation and the National Commission for Privatisation [NCP], an Agency of the Government of Sierra Leone and Nectar Group Limited, Nectar Sierra Leone Bulk Terminal Limited [NSTL], dated 3rd June 2025.
- iv. Amendment No. 2 to the License Agreement for the Bulk and Break-Bulk Terminal and Container Terminal, Dated June 4, 2025. This amendment involves SLPHA, the Government of Sierra Leone, NCP, Africa Global Logistics, and African Terminal Limited.

- iii. Addendum No. 5 to the Concession Agreement for Container Terminal at Queen Elizabeth the II Quay by and among Sierra Leone Ports and the Government of Sierra Leone and National Commission for Privatisation.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[Government Motion by the Minister of Transport and Aviation has been ratified]

THE SPEAKER: This is for the attention of the clerks that when I say as stated, it does not mean you have to say the same thing. When you do your record of Votes and Proceedings, you have to say as stated and put the full information. Thank you very much. Mr Minister, you may leave.

HON. ZAINAB C. TARAWALLY: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O. 23. I am asking you to use your good office for Honourable Members of this House to be given a particular place to park our vehicles. Whenever we have an activity in this House, we are seriously stranded because most of the people who come to support these nominees usually park their vehicles where we park ours. Some of them even used abusive languages against MPs. Honourable Kanneh, myself and Honourable Billoh Shaw are victims. On Thursday, we will be having a very big occasion here. We have to instruct the Sergeant-At-Arms to be protecting a particular place for Honourable Members. We should be respected and dignified.

THE SPEAKER: I totally agree with you, Honourable Member Mr Sergeant-At-Arms, this is for your information and the information of the LUC. No other vehicle should come here, if not the vehicles of Members of Parliament. This is the House for Members of Parliament. The facilities here are for Members of Parliament and not for anyone coming from outside, except probably the Ministers, the President. If we have space for ministers, no problem, but we give priority to diplomatic missions; otherwise, it is strictly for Members of Parliament. Please try to identify the areas where Members of Parliament should park on Thursday. Identify the area and inform MPs accordingly. Honourable Members, we have a meeting immediately after this sitting in Committee Room 1. Let me assure you that I will not keep you for long. Let us go there and discuss some of these issues. Mr Sergeant-At-Arms, please inform the LUC.

HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS: Mr Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Member from Bombali and it is not only for tomorrow. Most times when MPs come here, especially when we have approvals or important activity they parked where MPs are parking and when MPs come, there is no place to park.

THE SPEAKER: We should not even be allowing other vehicles here. Let them stop at the gate and stroll up.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: We have noticed that there are vehicles that are permanently stationed in this Parliament. The Sergeant-At-Arms and the police should ensure that all stationed vehicles should be removed. Some people are using our car park as garage. MPs do not have space to park.

THE SPEAKER: Sergeant-At-Arms, where is your Director? Are you going to get rid of all those stationary vehicles? You have to do that later than tomorrow. You can call SLRSA to remove all of them. Tell the LUC to inform the Inspector General of Police to ensure that these stationary vehicles are removed from Parliament.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: The other issue that we have is between the staff and parliamentarians. We have designated places for the staff and parliamentarians. When you come in the morning, you will find out that all the areas are being occupied by staff. So, let us have a designated place for staff and another place for parliamentarians. This will help us to know where to park when you come in the morning. Staff should have their place and MPs should also have their own parking space. When we started this Session, the Deputy Speaker ensured that staff had their own parking lot and up here was for parliamentarians, but now it is mixed. So, let us have designated car parks for staff and parliamentarians.

THE SPEAKER: Sergeant-At-Arms, please work on this and report to me. Please tell the LUC to work on this issue. They should not allow any staff to come here.

HON. JOSEPH ABDUL BASH KAMARA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise on S.O. 23 to once again bring to the attention of this Honourable House a matter that is very deep and painful. This has to do with the delay completion of the Lumley Hospital. I raised this issue not out of convenience, but as someone who has personally noticed the scars of a nation's unpreparedness, especially the one that has to do with our health. During the Ebola outbreak, I lost 13 family members, including my beloved mother and younger brother. That grief has cemented a permanent scar in my heart. I pray that no other Sierra Leonean will ever endure such situation. We now have a golden opportunity with the Lumley Hospital and its proposed 100 beds hospital and two theaters. We have a golden opportunity to ensure that we do something to prevent future tragedies. I therefore appeal to this Honourable House for urgent action to be taken, so that the Lumley Hospital is fixed for the people in that community and Sierra Leone at large.

It is something which I have raised here several times. If you see the condition where people go to seek medication, it is horrible.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Chair of the Health Committee, please take note of that. I know you are extremely hard working. You are doing well and please take note of this concern.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: There are two issues here. You instructed one of your staff to deal with the issue regarding the mining companies and the effects they have on our community. I have a situation in my Chiefdom. There is the UMC Primary School and the head teacher is at loggerhead with the community. The Section Chief and other stakeholders reported to me that the head teacher allegedly took 15 to 20 bags of rice out of the community for private use. This complaint came up to Freetown, but I will engage the Chairman of Education Committee. I will also take this matter to the relevant institutions or agencies. They have invited the headmaster, even after the Ministry has asked him to step aside until the investigation report is out he has not done that. The matter has been reported to the ACC and when they invited him, he said that he was unwell. Yesterday, the Section Chief and other stakeholders sent me a very strong audio message that if you insist that he is going to teach in that school, they would resist him until the government intervenes. I bring this to the attention of the House because the matter has been taken to the Ministry of Education through the Chairman, but nothing has been done. We have reported the matter to the ACC, but nothing has been done. As we speak, the recent supplies they gave the school have been siphoned by this teacher. They should speed up with this investigation.

THE SPEAKER: I understand your position, but it is a clear matter for the ACC. If the teacher is invited and he refused to come, the ACC knows what to do. If no step is taken against that particular teacher, then come and complain the ACC and not the teacher. We will get the ACC to come here and explain why they have not concluded the investigation.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Mr Speaker, I brought this matter here because we have used all possible avenues we supposed to use.

THE SPEAKER: That is what I am saying. You have to do a follow up on that matter with the ACC. If no action is taken at the next adjourned date, bring that to the notice of this House, so that we can invite the Commissioner to come and ask relevant questions. This is a clear matter for the ACC to investigate, and during such investigation, the teacher will be asked to step aside.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: That was the mandate given by the education authorities in Freetown.

THE SPEAKER: Forget about the education authority. You have to deal with the ACC. Forget about the Ministry of Education and deal with the ACC because that is a corruption matter. Please follow up on the matter and if nothing happens, inform this House for further action.

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: The other issue is on your desk already.

THE SPEAKER: The one you brought to the attention of the Chairman of the Mines Committee?

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: I brought it directly to your attention and you instructed one of your staff to do a letter.

THE SPEAKER: Who is that staff?

HON. MUSTAPHA M. SELLU: Mr David Saffa assigned to your office. You requested him to do a letter, requesting the mining companies to come for a meeting with you.

THE SPEAKER: See me in my chambers immediately after this sitting, so that I can follow up on that issue. Honourable Members, immediately after sitting, we have a meeting in Committee Room 1 for ten minutes. I request that you reserve all these issues for Committee Room 1 and we will deal with them there.

HON. PC KANDEH PARIA KAWALLEH II: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have told you 1000 times that my bridge has finally collapsed and our people are completely stranded. I use the bypass road, which is seven miles off. I told you to intervene in this aspect. That is our major road, Mr Speaker. Please do something about it.

THE SPEAKER: That is a matter for the SLRA.

HON. PC KANDEH PARIA KAWALLEH II: Yes, but I cannot talk with any of them and that is why I decided to bring to your attention.

THE SPEAKER: Where is the Chairman of the Works Committee?

HON. PC KANDEH PARIA KAWALLEH II: The last time he told me to meet him, but there is improvement.

THE SPEAKER: Deputy, can you address us on that, please. Director of ICT, we have a couple of issues here. One is the mics at the back. They are not operational. Why are they not working?

MR JOSEPH CONTEH [Director of ICT]: For the microphones at the back row, we just need to change the batteries.

THE SPEAKER: Have we bought batteries?

MR JOSEPH CONTEH: No, sir.

THE SPEAKER: Somebody brought a bill that they have supplied alkaline batteries. We have even paid the contractor. Please meet me in my Chambers immediately after this sitting. I will show you a document to prove that a supplier said they have supplied batteries to Parliament. The second thing relates to MPs' ID cards.

MR JOSEPH CONTEH: I have submitted the request to the Clerk's Office

THE SPEAKER: Yes, now go to the Clerk and invite him. The two of you should come to my chambers.

HON. ALPHA B. MANSARAY: Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O. 23. Mr Speaker, you are a heavenly sent for this nation. I want to appreciate you for all the issues you have addressed in this House, especially most of those brought under S.O. 23. I could remember that I stood here and drew your attention to the constraints of citizens accessing centers for national identity cards. You instructed the Committee for the Director General [DG] to be summoned here. The DG assured us that he would increase the number of centers. Of course, Section 13 of the NCRA Act mandates him to create centers at Chiefdom levels. To date, nothing has happened. We have 200 chiefdoms, but the entire country only has 23 centers. We saw a video from the DG, ONS Director and the IG that the end of August will be the deadline and they will start mounting checkpoints. Mr Speaker, I think whosoever that comes to this House and assured us to do something, they must do it. Instead of deadlines, let us have the centers at chiefdom levels. We have approximately seven million people with just 23 centers is not good at all. I need your support. All of us here are representing chiefdoms and sections. Our people are suffering. My district only has one center, which is Moyamba District and I am sure the same for the other districts. I want to continue to ask for your support, so that our citizens can benefit from this opportunity. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Who is the Chairperson for the Committee on Planning and Development? I have been told that this matter is under the purview of the Internal Affairs Committee. Who is the Chairperson for the Internal Affairs Committee? Honourable Sarty Banya, please summon the DG. Let us know what the status is. Summon him against next week Monday. We are going on vacation on Friday. Our last sitting will be on Thursday, next week.

Honourable Members, I am still waiting for the concepts. I have only received one concept. I have told you to give your concepts to your leaders and the leaders will bring them to the Chairman of Supervisory Committee for my attention and approval. I have not received anything. The Chairman has not forwarded anything to me because I need to act on that before we go on vacation. If we do not act on that before the vacation, I do not want anybody to say Mr Speaker has not allowed us to go on oversight. Like I said, fifteen Committees are to go on oversight during this vacation. I will follow up with the leader. I crave your indulgence for a sitting on Monday. Can we sit on Monday? We have to sit on Monday. I urge the Leader of the Opposition to move a Motion for a sitting on Monday. I think we should sit on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and then we go for vacation on Friday.

HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA: I stand on S.O. 5[1] to move that we sit on Monday, even though Monday is not our usual sitting date based on S.O. 5[1]

*[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]
[Motion to sit on Monday has been carried]*

ADJOURNMENT

*[The House rose at 2:05 p.m., and was adjourned to Thursday, 7th August, 2025
at 10:00 a.m.]*