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*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

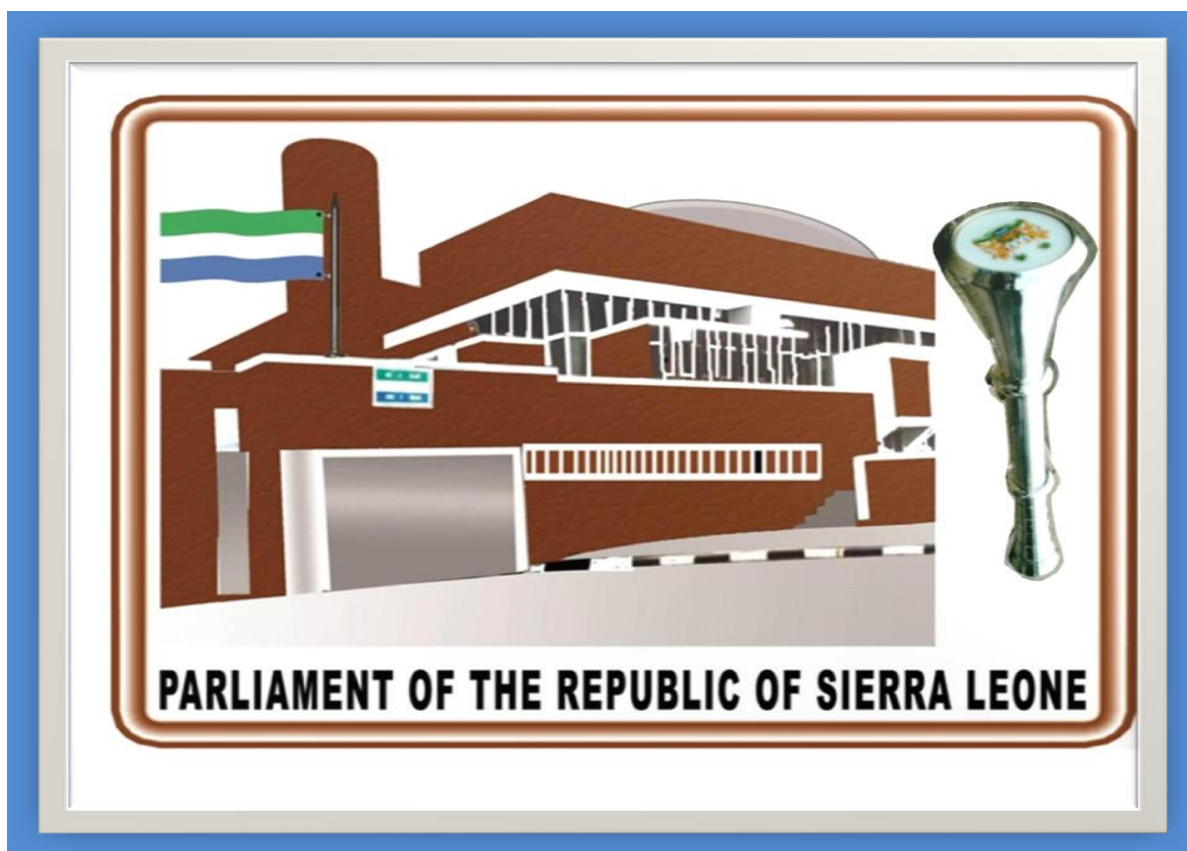
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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING**

**THURSDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2024**

*SESSION – 2023/2024*



*OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN*

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**[HANSARD]**

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**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**VOLUME: I**

**NUMBER: 53**

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

Proceedings of the Sitting of the House  
held Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2024

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## **V. GOVERNMENT MOTION**

**THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION**

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

**THAT THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE HEREBY RATIFIES THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENT WHICH WAS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE ON TUESDAY 4 TH JUNE 2024:**

**ADDENDUM TO THE CONCESSION AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BY AND BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION, THE SIERRA LEONE ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY AND AUTOSPECT (SL) LTD, DATED 21st JANUARY 2019.**



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

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

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

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**THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024**

#### **I. PRAYERS**

*[The Table Clerk, Mrs Fatmata Bintu Winston, read the Prayers]*

*[The House met at 10:10A.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]*

**HON. NENNEH LEBBIE:** Mr Speaker, I so move the Motion for the suspension of S.O. 5[2].

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Seconder?

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

**HON. DANIEL BRIMA KOROMA:** Mr Speaker before you move the Motion...

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes....

**HON. DANIEL BRIMA KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, I am humbly suggesting that you meet with Leaders of both Aisles on this issue. Maybe during that close door meeting I will tell you my own views.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay.

**HON. DANIEL BRIMA KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, it failed woefully in the Fifth Parliament but luckily for us with this set of Speaker and Deputy Speaker is clearly a different generation and we wish that you succeed as a Speaker of our own generation. So I am humbly suggesting that you call a meeting for Leaders of both Aisles on this issue then I will make my views known.

**THE SPEAKER:** I agree, thank you very much Honourable Daniel Koroma.

*[Question Proposed Put & Agreed To]*

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, I want to ask the Leader of Government Business through your office Mr Speaker, that any Committee that is going on oversight the Leadership should know because what is happening is that we have a lot of Committees on oversight and they go on oversight without noticing the Leadership. So I want to suggest that Mr Speaker, let us know the Committees that are going on oversight so at any given time we will not allow two Committees to go on oversight at the same time. I also want to suggest that the day we will start doing the Constitutional Review, no Committee should go on oversight until we are finished with it.

**THE SPEAKER:** Certainly so Honourable Member.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** That is my submission Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** I agreed with you Honourable Chief Whip.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, for my knowledge and for proceedings, I do not think any Committee should go on oversight whiles Parliament is having a sitting on a particular date, so if you have done that one I think is out of lack of procedure and also just taking the Laws into their own hands and he is the Chief Whip and I am the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and if the Chairman of the Committee is not abiding with the rule of procedure, I think it is onus on the Chief Whip to take disciplinary actions against Members who are behaving that way. As I speak to you, I do not have any Report in front of me or a letter or any invitation talking about oversight. So if you are on oversight unknown to the Honourable Chief Whip, let him take the appropriate disciplinary actions; nobody is above the Law but for me I know there is no Committee on oversight, that is why when we adjourn, every Chairmen know that we should be in Parliament for sitting on that particular day not even Committee meeting during sittings at the Committee Rooms; you should be in the Chamber, you should come on time so it is the responsibility of the Chairman to know the rules of procedure.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Mr Leader for raising this particular issue. Like Honourable Daniel Koroma said, very soon I will be inviting Leaders on both Aisles to a meeting and immediately after the meeting, we would ensure that we meet with all Chairmen to lay down the ground rules; and if any Chairman is found wanting that Chairman will be removed from his or her Chairmanship *[Applause]* because as Law makers we need to discipline ourselves. We cannot be making the Laws and being seen flattering those Laws. That is more the reason why we are up this Hill, Tower Hill; people should look up to us for clear examples. I will call Leaders from both Aisles to have a very serious meeting on some of the issues apart from even Committee meetings on discipline generally.

Those who know me will tell you that I play a lot, I laugh a lot but I have clear rules and those rules have guided my life up to today. So thank you very much Leaders, we will certainly meet around those issues.

## **II. THE RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024.**

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, if you see what is happening now in Parliament there is some form of order with our staff members. I give the instructions to ensure that we have orderliness in this Parliament and when you come around you would know that this is a serious institution. You do not have people all over the place, and I have issued out over 100 queries at the end of this month and I ensured that my own younger brother was queried just to tell you that there will be no favouritism *[Applause]*.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, just for the record and we know you are doing a very good job. First, I want Members to clearly carry your message that has to do with the procedures; the things that you want to do in line with discipline of the Committees *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, let us not go into that Mr Leader, We will meet on those issues and discuss them.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I know what I am saying. I do not want them to quote you wrongly that you are about to remove the Chairmen *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Leader, nobody will quote me wrongly, you leave that to me. You know when I say things I do not go around them, just leave them, that is why I said we will meet as Leaders and lay down the ground rules. Do not go around that Honourable Leader please.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** We will lay the ground rules; do not hurry about that please.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, you have repeated yourself for the ground rule that is what I was saying.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, leave that with me please.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, that is why I said you should have patient me a little bit so that I can bring out the point. Deputy Speaker raised an issue about looking at institution on corruption and on the news headlines 'SLBC is corrupt' quoting the Deputy Speaker so I do not want them to carry wrong headlines.

**THE SPEAKER:** In fact, what I have done in the first place, is to have a bulletin that will be explaining to the public what we do here especially whatever I say here as Speaker. So do not hurry about that, we will do the explanation for ourselves. You know, with the advent of the social media, we have different players making use of the social media, who will have to be doing our own stories in Parliament for the public to understand. We do not have to get people to explain for us, let do our own explanation, let us do not allow people to explain our own stories. So I think what I said is very clear to the ordinary man that we will lay down our ground rules. When we lay our ground rules and Chairmen flout those rules, we will remove them based on our ground rules; those issues are so clear [*Undertone*] that is why I said I will call a meeting.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I am happy you have repeated yourself on two occasions; I know what I am saying because people going for cheap news headlines and they do not go for contents. Secondly, you talked about discipline which we are all carefully minded about, I know you give instruction; in fact yesterday when we met I also told you about that. Do not forget that the Whips by Parliamentary standards, I will want the Whips on both Aisles to help to maintain some amount of discipline even among the MPs, the Chief Whip and the Opposition Whip.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is alright, thank you.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, you have set the ground rules, you have set the stage so let them come on board to help the Deputy Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Mr Leader.



**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me audience. Mr Speaker, I said this in the last Parliament that our Journalists reporting for us in Parliament are not being fair to us because I can vividly remember on that day, the point that was raised by Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara about what the Deputy Leader said and the Deputy Leader clarified that he did not say SLBC is corrupt. What he said was there was a corruption allegation before the new DG took over, that was what he said but they went on and changed that one to say Parliament said SLBC is corrupt; that was not what he said. I have said this over and again in this Well, the Journalists that are reporting for us in this Parliament they have not been fair to us; they only report the negative side of Parliament not the positive side *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we are going to have a meeting with the Journalists that are covering proceedings here. We are also going to have meetings with them to also tell them how they go about reporting because we know what we do here. This is our building, we have the right to say you have not been doing a professional job so leave us; we have the right. So if we come to realize that a particular media house is not doing justice to Parliament, it is for us to say leave us and we can tell your media house to send somebody else. Let me have the meeting with the Leaders probably next week and all of those things will be discussed. Yes you wanted to say something Honourable Abdul Karim Kamara.

**HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA** Mr Speaker, I just want to support what you are saying. I think in the last Parliament they started it with the PR Department in which media people were trained I think that is one thing I will suggest you do and secondly, with the advent of social media now, you can even be out of Parliament not reporting in Parliament and actually get information and the fact presented.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is noted, thank you. Honourable Members, we go through the Votes and Proceedings as usual we skip pages 1 to 4. Page 5? Page 6? Page 7? Page 8? Page 9? Can a Member please move?

**HON. ABDUL KARIM BANGURA:** I so move Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Seconder?

**HON. MOSES EDWARD:** I so second Mr Speaker.

***[Question Proposed Put & Agreed To]***

***The Record of Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 has been adopted.***

**III. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER**

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker before the Announcement...

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes.....

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** I wanted to amend the Order Paper but we are overwhelmed by the events of the day. Firstly, let me draw your attention, I do not see your staff, those who are supposed to take your recording; the Hansard staff I am not seeing them.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Clerk who are those who are supposed to be recording? *[Undertone]* where are they? Where are the Recorders?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Over there or here? Which side? We cannot have one Mr Speaker; I know what I am saying.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes...

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** At least two; where are the others?

**THE SPEAKER:** Where is the Head of Department of the Legislative Services? Okay we will deal with that. Yes Leader of Government of Business.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to amend the Order Paper to expunge item 5; the Government Motion. I so move that item 5 be removed from the Order Paper; thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Any Seconder?

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

***[Question Proposed Put & Agreed To]***

***[Motion moved by the Majority Leader of Government Business has been carried].***

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I am going to take at least twelve days adjournment after today. The reason being is that, I want Committees that have been processed to go on oversight. Of course, I know as a matter of fact that Chairmen of Committees know the procedure; if you want your Committee to go on oversight, you reach out to the Director of Committees; you do your concept and send your concept to the Director of Committees. That document is forwarded to the Leader of Government Business; he does his comments and sends the document to the Clerk of Parliament and then to me for approval. That is the procedure and that is going to be the procedure going forward; if you want to go on any oversight, you make your concept note to the Director of Committees. He goes through the concept note, sends the concept note to the Leader of Government Business for his comment; after the Leader of Government Business, that document is forwarded to the Clerk of Parliament, after the Clerk of Parliament, the document is then forwarded to me for approval and I will not approve until the finances are looked into. You know every year we have some budgetary allocation for oversight. We are going to ensure that every year; Committees go on oversight but based on the availability of resources. Of course, when the document is brought to me I will have to enquire from the Director of Finance to know whether we have the finances to ensure that a particular Committee goes on oversight and that is the more reason why I am going to adjourn for twelve days to enable Committees that have been processed to go on oversight but no Committee should go on oversight without producing a Report. If you go on oversight once and you do not bring your Report to be tabled in Parliament if possible to be debated then do not expect to go on another oversight without that Report.

Honourable Members, you cannot go on an oversight as a Committee without producing a Report; please this is a plead particularly to Chairmen, if you apply for funds and you are given funds to go on oversight make sure when you go on oversight, you bring a

Report to this House and you do not only bring a Report to this House, you bring a Report that is worthwhile. Please do not go and tell your Clerk for the sake of it because at least we have collected money to go on oversight, do something and give it to me for it to be tabled. Your Report must be worth the coin and even before you apply to the Director of Committees for you to go on oversight, know exactly on what you want to go an oversee and achieve. Please do not go because you have seen other Committees going on oversight so therefore I must go at all cost. Please work with your Clerks to make sure that you retire whatever resources that were given to you please because this is the House of Parliament; we do not want a situation where people begin to doubt our credibility as a House. It was this House that passed the PMF Act and there are certain requirements in that PMF Act, we were here, we debated that Act and we passed it; we should not be seen undermining that Act. So when we use resources belonging to the State, it behoves us as Members of Parliament to retire such resources. So please like I said I am going to meet with Leaders on both Aisles, we will come up with ground rules but this is the procedure if you want to go on oversight; I really do not think there will be a time you apply to go on oversight and you will be denied not to go on oversight, I do not see that kind of situation happening. As long as whatever you want to go and oversee is worth the coin but please as Members of Parliament, I made a solemn promise that Parliament must be as quiet as it should be. Of course, the public they are going to create stories around us but let us be sure of what we do here so that nobody goes around telling stories about Parliament *[Applause]*.

The other day when I sat here and I said as Members of Parliament, we are held in high esteemed by our citizens; in fact sometimes we become the most indicted people because we have to perform those functions that should be performed by the Executive therefore we want the State to encourage us. We want the State to make all resources available to us, to make our lives liveable, to help us help our people, and somebody went and said something else that in fact this Speaker the first day he sat he was even talking about increment *[Laughter]* you know this is the State we have found ourselves

in. There is nothing we can do about it because those days when we had traditional media, at least a Journalist will call you to cross check your story, now nobody needs to cross check your story; somebody will just sit in his corner and write. In fact what has happened to the social media is that even our own brothers and sisters that are not quite educated they know where to press the button and record; so the moment even when somebody takes an advantage of a Member of Parliament and you want to defend your right, somebody will go S.O 2 'becuz e na Member of Parliament, e di take advantage of me; e don kam take me land, e don kam do dis to me'. Even when that person is clearly in the wrong but because you are a Member of Parliament, they will just press the record button and start saying things about you that are not fair but this is the current status quo, this is where we have found ourselves; so please Honourable Members, be careful and serve your conscience and your God. So I thank you very much for listening. Can we proceed?

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. As I always say, we need to prove to Sierra Leoneans and to the outside world that this generation of Leadership especially the Speaker and Deputy Speaker must succeed. When I was on that side during the Fourth Parliament, the right Honourable Dr Bernadette Lahai was seated here and she always made mentioned of a particular Committee that makes oversight more relevance. In the first place as you rightly said, every Committee once you have done your oversight, you must produce a credible Report, a worthy Report *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Daniel Koroma, I did not mention the Supervisory Committee. Leader of Government Business, you know I did not mention the Supervisory Committee. After having done your oversight, do not forget to reach out to the Supervisory Committee, it is the duty of that Committee to supervise all Committees. In fact if that Committee makes recommendation against a particular Committee or against a particular Chairman, we will accept that recommendation because they are there to supervise all Committees.

**HON. DANIEL B. KOROMA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. As I have said, in addition to Committees producing credible and worthy Reports, the Honourable Member seated here at that time always made mentioned of that recommendations containing in those Reports as Law and as a result modalities must be put in place to ensure those recommendations are not presented just for formality, they must be complied with the relevant MDAs, they must be adhere to strictly to the latter. So she was even suggesting a Committee to be called Committee on Assurance but based on what you have just said maybe instead of creating more Committees, the Supervisory Committee may step in that shoes to ensure that one. Every Committee Report in my opinion I am ready to support you, we on this side we are ready to support you and your Deputy Speaker and the Administration to make sure if you so agree that henceforth every Committee Report must be debated. The day it is laid, it can be moved on that very day by the Chairman to present its findings and then maybe two or three on both Aisles to debate on the issues and then we take a resolution on key fact brought up in that Report and then those resolutions through the Supervisory Committee or Committee on Assurance, we must make sure those resolutions are complied with by the relevant MDAs otherwise it will be as before, Committees come and they lay their Reports and is just for formalities and you will hear nothing again about it.

In my opinion, every recommendation after a brief debate a resolution is taken on some of those recommendations; some will be discarded, some will be adopted. Those adopted must be complied with by the MDAs otherwise Mr Speaker and Honourable Members, it makes no difference. We lay our Reports here, they are never debated, they are never adhere to, the recommendations remain as they are; the wrong continues and then Committees become just toothless Bull dogs. I think under your administration that must change and we are ready to support you Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Chief Whip before you make your comment, let me just read the provision; Honourable Members for your attention, please read Standing Orders 76[6] pursuant to Subsection 2 of Section 107 of the Constitution; the Minister under whose portfolio the matter raised in a Report falls shall be requested to offer a

comprehensive response thereto in the House within Fourteen Days after the dispatched of an adopted select or special select Committee Report to him/her. Now what do we mean? In the first place let me warn Committee Chairmen, some Committee Chairmen have transformed themselves into Court *[Applause]* *[Laughter]*. What they do? When they invite MDAs, they do their relevant investigations, they do their recommendations; they write letters directly to the MDAs. Every Report that is produced by a Committee should be brought to this House and adopted; if this House does not adopt any recommendation then those recommendations are not orders. So when you do your recommendations, bring your Report to the House, to the plenary for adoption; we debate and adopt your recommendations. The moment those recommendations are adopted, that is when they have the force of Law. We are going to have a special session for Chairmen to tell you how you go about your Committee work. The moment you bring your Report to this plenary and that Report is debated and adopted like we did in the case of the Toll Road Gate, the Deputy Leader brought the Report here, we debated that Report and we adopted it; now is being implemented because it now becomes Law. So when you do your Report, bring them to the plenary, we debate them and adopt them; no MDA can go against such recommendations. So please, do not just do your recommendations and write to MDAs, bring your Report here for them to be adopted. I have facts on my table where Committees invite MDAs giving them instruction. That is not the procedure, bring your Report for your Report to be debated and adopted; thank you very much for your understanding.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Mr Speaker, thank you for raising those points. We are liked minded, I am going to raise those objections that you have raised but Mr Speaker like you said let me also refer Chairmen or Members of Committees to Section 93[3] because it has come to the notice of the Leader of Government Business and the Chief Whip that some Chairmen are in the habit of taking decisions of their Committee Report directly to the MDAs. We have two cases that have embarrassed Parliament and the Government that is the Committee on Local Government and the Committee on Defence. Please I just want to reiterate what the Speaker said but no Chairman, no

Committee should implement any Committee Report without bringing it to the Well. When you read Section 93[3] you will know exactly what it means to bring a Report to the Well and for us to debate it; once we debate it, it becomes a Law. It becomes a Law but for Chairmen to write letters directly to the MDAs it is embarrassing to Government and it is embarrassing to Parliament. So please I want to join the Speaker to plead to Members because we need to keep sanity in this Parliament. A whole World Bank money has been seized because of the Report by the Defence Committee.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, do not go into the details Honourable Chief Whip, we will discuss that please.

**HON. DICKSON M. ROGERS:** Okay, so let Chairmen be aware of Committee Report not being debated but action taken by them. No action should be taken by individual Committee without the approval of Parliament; thank you Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, just for the record we are not saying they should not summon MDAs, they should summon the MDAs or relevant institutions.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes...

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** The conclusion of the meeting or the findings of their meetings 76[6] is very clear on that one and where proper action is to be taken Parliament much be guided.

**THE SPEAKER:** Certainly so Mr Leader.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** We just want Chairmen to note that we are not against them summoning MDAs.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, certainly not.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** But it is your Report, your conclusion after your findings we are asking for. If you have taken any conclusion, please make sure you forward it to the Clerks so that we can table it for adoption; thank you.



**HON. MIATTA ROGERS:** We should be au fait with the concept of separation of powers and I do not want to entertain argument here to pose any challenge between myself and our Leaders but we need to know better the issue of the Executive and the Legislative *[Interruption]*.

**HON MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Point of Order, can I tell the Chairman not to react and let proceed?

**THE SPEAKER:** Chairman, your Leader is just saying that you should not react.

**HON. MIATTA ROGERS:** I take your advice.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, thank you very much *[Laughter]*.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker again, Mr Speaker said something that I think maybe you have forgotten it.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes...

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Chairmen are of the view that they have competent Clerks.

**THE SPEAKER:** Of course.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** So I want you to clarify that one.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, we are not going to *[Undertone]*.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** We believe your Clerks can do it with your leave.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, there is Finance Officer that is going with any Committee. You can go with your Clerks and retire the funds *[Applause]* thank you.

## **LAYING OF PAPER**

### **THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES**

**THE SPEAKER:** Where is the Chairman? The Chairman and Leader and 'Lord of Kono' *[Laughter]*.

**HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, I hope you are not flattering me *[Laughter]* thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 18[7] with your leave Mr Speaker, I read; A Minister or Member on tabling a Paper may make a short explanatory statement of its content. Mr Speaker, First Report of the Parliamentary Committee on Mines and Mineral Resources with the title 'an enquiring within the operations of mining activities, an implementation of community development agreement funds in some mining communities in Port Loko and Kono District between 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024'.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, despite the cumulatively small size, it is widely recognized that Sierra Leone has the potential of a rich extractive minerals in this country. Mr Speaker, the mineral sector is so important to the world and in Sierra Leone; to the extent that it is factored and enshrined in Section 7, I quote or paraphrase "if only we can unrest the natural resources of our minerals, we are bound to have a resilient and a bouncing economy".

Mr Speaker, Members of Parliament are not only here to represent our people, we are not only here to make good and workable Laws, we are not only here to scrutinize and approve budget, we are not only here to promote the peace and national cohesion, we are also here to play oversight and MDAs are relevant to our Committees as spelt out in Section 93[3] and Section 6 of that particular Section.

Mr Speaker, Sierra Leone has made a significant effort to improve the mineral sector to the extent that by bringing out friendly human face legislation. The Mines or Minerals Development Act; did you hear that name? It used to be the Mines and Minerals Act. It has been metamorphosed to the Mines and Minerals Development Act; we want to see developments coming from mining deposits. If you go around today in Tonkolili, you go around Port Loko, you go around Kono District, and you will see CDA money working with tangible development; that is the essence of the name, the Mines and Minerals Development Act. Mining should give back to development.

Mr Speaker, it is important that 24% of our GDP today comes from the mining. 80% of our exports derived from mining products. Mr Speaker, it is also important to know that

the mining has potential to employ at least three hundred thousand people direct or indirectly; that is the potency of the mining. Three hundred thousand people can gain employment from the mining, consistent with this it is important for us to know that this Committee Report actually ravel at COR, our powers, the proceedings, the conducts and the methodology. The findings and observations, time will not permit me or to look at the recommendations on what we observed and we must acknowledge the role the Leadership played for us to perform this oversight and the Members enlisted, I cannot read their names. Honourable Fatmata Bockarie happens to be my Deputy Chair, my able self as the Chairperson, several Members across the Aisles, the Chiefs, Members of the Opposition and the Ruling; they are all here, they did a lot, I must acknowledge them.

Mr Speaker, we arrived during our oversight that the Marampa Mining Company, just a few short explanatory in line with S.O 18 Sub-section 6. Mr Speaker, it is important for us to know, you can stand on S.O 25 and go ahead that deals with Speaker's ruling not me *[Laughter]*.

**HON. AARON ARUNA KOMORA:** Mr Speaker Point of Order Sir.

**HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA:** Be seated a Leader is standing, Mr Speaker it is important for us to know *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** *[Laughter]* hold on for a while.

**HON. AARON A. KOMORA:** On a very serious note, Mr Speaker, the Honourable Leader from the other side or the Report is about to lay is a very important Report and I think Parliament has the necessary provisions to give it that particular relevance.

**THE SPEAKER:** Of course.

**HON. AARON ARUNA KOMORA:** So I want to plead to him that he has just adhered to the details of the Standing Orders and then another MP can move for that Report to be debated but he is almost debating, I know he can make short statement but he has exceeded beyond the time *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Well such is subjective, you know Fidel Castro used to give very long speeches; he will stand there for over seven, eight hours; so he went and he stood at the UN General Assembly and he said well today I am not feeling too bright, I want to be extremely brief today. He went beyond five hours *[Laughter]* so such can be subjective.

**HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, the good news is here is so subjective that there is no limited time for a short explanation *[Laughter]* as enshrined in S.O 18[7]. Mr Speaker, we observe during our oversight that the Supervisory Ministry for the Mines and Minerals Ministry and Regulatory Department should be summoned for an update on very relevant thing. We realized during our oversight that Marampa Mines is micro managed from the Paramount Chief as well as the CTC. The Community Development Committee Chairperson that Marampa Mines is micro managing their finances especially it has to do with their 10% administrative; 10% is kept for the administration, for the buying of ink, papers etc. etc. They will struggle and struggle before accessing it. They are getting an unnecessary delay and it was also observed that they have stock piled to be exported; they cannot access the railway and port.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we also observed that there is a conflict in Siderite Mining Company that has to do with shareholding rights. Mr Speaker, we also observed that most of the mining companies do not have NMA in Kono District and some are not adhering to the 1%; remember it was the Fifth Parliament that actually brought out at least with Specific reference to Section 43 Sub-section 4 of the Mines and Development Act at least 1% should be paid of gross profit to the mining communities. Some are not adhering to the 1%; it was based on that Mr Speaker this Committee recommends that the Minister supervising that particular sector and a regulatory department NMA regulating the affairs of that particular mining company be summoned for more updates and the ensuing conflict between and among the shareholding parties in the Siderite Mining Company be summoned to hear for more update before the Committee.

Mr Speaker, with this I should acknowledge your Leadership and the Leadership from both Aisles for the blessing and the leverage they gave to this Committee and

Members. Members of the Mining Committee are you around? We acknowledge them *[Laughter]* for the effort they made and we have a Principal Clerk; he actually took the stage.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I hereby move and beg Members of this Honourable House that the Committee Report entitled "An enquiring into operations of Mining activities and implementation of Community Development Agreement Funds in some mining communities in Kono District, in Port Loko District between 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March" be hereby laid before this Honourable House and be accepted. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Honourable AKK.

**HON. Abdul KARIM KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, I stand on S.O 25.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes....

**HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, considering the importance of the mining sector to our economy and the current challenges around the sector, I think it is important we debate this Report and as Parliament is also important to start to look at other Committee's Report because there are principal sources for legislation. When I listened to the Chairman of Mines and the recommendations he has made and the challenges around the funds around the mining sector, I think it is important that as Parliament considering the fact that this country needs money for us to look at some of the facts he has presented and see how best we will draw legislations to make things better.

Mr Speaker, MPs in those regions and those Districts where mining communities are must be treated seriously by these mining companies and for us who are coming from the mining communities for the very first time, we want to see better Laws that will improve the livelihood to our people. Kudos to the Chairman who has done well in the last Parliament with some of the Laws but we think much need to be done. Therefore I called for this Report to be debated.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, we have been waiting for *[Interruption]*...

**HON. AARON A. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, there is a Motion on the Floor Sir.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** No there is no Motion, is a Notice.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is Notice....

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** There is nothing to do....

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable AKK please do the relevant thing *[Laughter]*.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** No Sir, Point of Order, it is a Notice. He has given Notice let proceed.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, you need to do the relevant thing.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, he needs not to be told; he is a senior man let him do the needful.

**THE SPEAKER:** *[Laughter]* No, no, no.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** E sabi wetin for do [S.O 2].

**HON. AARON A. KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, this is ...

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** He has given a Notice.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, he has given a Notice.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** So we have to progress.

**THE SPEAKER:** I just need to remind him. Honourable AKK do the necessary thing, when you do the necessary thing make sure you inform me personally.

**HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA:** I will.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, thank you. Yes Honourable Leader.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, I want to remind you about your commitment your predecessor made about Question Time to Ministers and I want to inform the House that, I have addressed the issue to Cabinet concerning Question Time to Ministers; is not anyway to embarrass Ministers, but a way to clarify some of the

issues that have to do with the MDAs and also to have an interaction with Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, your predecessor agreed to do the Question Time the last Wednesdays of every month but yet I want to remind you if you are still in line with such proposal; you can talk to us so we can start the Question Time. So I just want to read to the whole House what we have at hand which we refer to as an Internal Notice Paper that is the document before the House for consideration and they are as follows:

**a) The Minister of Fisheries,**

**World Trade Organization [WTO] Agreement on the Fisheries subsidies, ministerial decisions on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Ministerial Conference twelve session in Geneva; 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

**b) The Minister of Transport and Aviation**

**Record on the signature of the Air Transport Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Government of the Czech Republic dated the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

**i) Memorandum; memorandum of understanding between the Aeronautical of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Aeronautical Authority of the Republic of Sierra Leone dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

**ii) Bilateral Air Service Agreement between the Government of the Federal Democratic of Ethiopia and the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone dated July 2000.**

**iii) Administrative package for ratification of the Protocol Amending Article 56 of the Convention on international sea-aviation dated the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016.**

**iv) Administrative package for ratification of Protocol Amending Article 50[a] of the Convention on the international sea-aviation dated the 6th October 2016.**

**v) Addendum of the concession Agreement entered into between the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority and the Auto-sport Sierra Leone limited dated 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019.**

**C. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

**Convention on Judiciary Cooperation in civil commercial and administrative matters between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Sierra Leone.**

**D. Ministry of Finance,**

**Agreement for the establishment of African export and import Bank**

**E. Private Member Bill**

**Prohibition of Child Married Act 2024**

**Honourable Mariama Munia Zombo.**

**Bills**

**A. The Public Financial Management Amendment Act 2023, Ministry of Finance**

**B. The State Owned Enterprises Ownership and Government Commission Act 2023, Ministry of Finance**

**C. The Petroleum Exploration and Production Amendment 2024, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice**



**D. The National Youth Service Amendment Act 2024, the Minister of Youth Affairs**

**E. The National Youth Commission Amendment Act 2024, the Minister of Youth Affairs**

**F. The Criminal Procedure Act, the Attorney General and Minister of Justice**

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you, Mr Speaker that is all what we have on the Internal Notice Paper. So those ones will be circulated to the Leader of the Opposition and when we do the other amendments. I thank you.

**HON. DANIEL BRIMA KOROMA:** Yes Mr Speaker....

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Honourable Daniel Koroma.....

**HON. DANIEL BRIMA KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, I must commend this House for such procedure and I have also observed that under your watch, Parliament is rapidly going paperless even more than before which is commendable. Even the Report by the Mines Committee and these addendum Agreements, they are all on our tablets. The Director of Legislative Services engaged me this morning that they just concluded this Notice Paper so I am encouraging that office to ensure the Notice Paper be included or be sent to our tablets because is like agenda of Parliament. So we should be opportune to refer to it at any pointing time to see our assignments to help MPs to be prepared better; is our agenda. So if it is permanent in out tablets, we refer to it and plan ourselves better and to give us some of those items that will also guide us *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Is the Director of Legislative Services here?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Yes, I do not know if they have solved the technical problem that is why in fact they do not even have it and I do not have it in my system. In the Fifth Parliament, we were having hard copies and some people were getting soft copies; so we uploaded it after we have looked at it properly because there are others who have entered into the Internal Notice Paper this morning, I was unable to get hold

of them so we will put all of them and upload it but we have to preview it Mr Speaker before we circulate that one. Presently we cannot do it even if they have fixed the problem because he has not looked at it so that is the reason. So we are sorry about it and they are doing it.

Mr Speaker, you know we have to show as a Parliament when we have been given donor support, that one should be reflected in our work that we do in Parliament. Mr Speaker, very soon when I meet with the Business Committee, we are going to take hard decision by disconnecting the desktops and we are going to allow Members to use their tablets. I do not see tablets in the Chamber so we have warned people not to misconstrue what we are doing; is for the good of all of us. Mr Speaker, Honourable Daniel Koroma has said it is very clear that, if I upload the Internal Notice Paper, for me I can even change that on my phone but if you have your tablet and you do not have smartphone, you can still use the tablet to check it up. So they have paid for the IT service, that is taxpayers money or even given by Donors, we need to use it. I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Leader of the Opposition.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, basically I want to join the Leader of Government Business in this but with my little experience I have in IT, I am of the opinion that what is in this desktop can be synchronized with what is in the tablet. You access this desktop when you are in Parliament, and you can access this tablet when you are at home. If there is any document here, once it is uploaded here, you must be able to access it on your tablet so once you are in Parliament, the tablet could not be too useful because all what is in the tablet should be in your desktop so you have to exercise your discretion to whether you use your desktop or you use your tablet but there are information on this desktop that we need to access and read well when we are at home and I am sure that is the essence of the tablet, with internet we can be able to access any information on this desktop in our tablets. So the tablet is very important, I want to reemphasize it but the internet also is what enables the essence of the tablet; without internet you cannot be able to access all of these information.

Mr Speaker, I want this Parliament to know, what is in this document cannot be read whiles we are sitting, you need ample time to read them and you can only do that when you have your tablet and you are at home so the essence of the tablet could be realized whiles you are out of Parliament so that you can read what is uploaded there so that you have ample knowledge when you come you will be very active to debate them *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** So Leader of Government Business do you have any comment?

**HON MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Mr Speaker, what we have here on the desktop is the same we have on our tablets. For me I use my Samsung tablet the reason being is because the memory capacity is slow, so the reason why I said we take them off the desktop is to compel our colleagues to use the tablet because that one you can take it home but the desktop is just when you are in the Chamber so we want to encourage them; that is why I said I will discuss with the Business Committee so we would tell them to use the tablet. We want to know those with low memory capacity, some they have 32mb, and 32mb cannot do anything for your document upload. We are asking for one terabyte because the amount of documents we are receiving from MDAs and from the IT Department, we need to have something like one terabyte but if we cannot get one terabyte, we can talk about something reasonable from the ICT Department. I do not want to recommend for them but what we have on the desktop, the software package is the same software package we have for the tablet.

Mr Speaker, why do we need to use the laptop at all times? We go for international Parliaments and Members may want to make their inputs even if they are offshore, you can make your presentation for debates. If the Leader of the Opposition is out of the jurisdiction but he can be connected by the virtual means, we can connect the Leader of the Opposition to talk to us by the virtual means *[Laughter]*.

Mr Speaker, I have discussed with the ICT Director that we do not need to take them off, even if you do not want to continue but you can follow Parliamentary proceedings from your own acquired tablets. So what we are going to do, if we increase the required capacity of the tablet and by making a virtual means of MPs, and Members

contributing towards the debates or following the proceedings in Parliament which they can intervene or we give them the platform so that they can also make their contributions; so this is just what I want to say that we are not just taking off the desktop but encourage our Colleagues to use the tablets at home and even when they are in Parliament. There are challenges we do face, if we do not allow them to use the tablets we cannot really know the challenges. Some of the challenges are as follows:

1. We need to fix the internet. There is no way the ICT Director is going to request for payment when he has not given justification, when Colleagues are not using the tablet.
2. We need to check the capacity and quality of what they have already purchased, the software package and to do upgrading.
3. I still recommend that we still need to do training under the ICT. We did the first one when we came and some people came later and they extended the training for them. So we need to have another general training under the ICT Department; so that is my submission, thank you.

**HON. NENEH LEBBIE:** Mr Speaker, I really do not want to go against my Leaders on both Aisles, I want to support them on this Motion but with my tablet I have it right now, I have made mentioned of that several times, it was configured to some numbers some of us cannot understand because I cannot even identify my own number, I do not know my number I want to be very fair with you. I do not have my number that is one and several times we have made mentioned of some of us improving on our abilities on this IT; we have asked for that and we are yet to receive that kind of training and we may want to be connected to some other internet facilities. If there is any way to allow our tablets to access other numbers outside the ones they gave us in Parliament that will be fine for us because is like having a white elephant; we are not using them Mr Speaker to be very frank. I have it right now if you ask for it, I always have it, I always bring it to Parliament but I am not using it because the number I have I do not even know. If they can configure it in a way that I will have access to other internet facilities

that will be fine for me and fine for all of us. Mr Speaker, I only wish we are advanced to what our Leader is trying to explain then some of us will enjoy the internet facilities or we will enjoy our tablets better. I thank you.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I know it is difficult to accept change but trust me it is true what Honourable Daniel Koroma said 90% of what we are doing now is in the form of ICT; we can see our work very easy. As I said even Order Paper you do not need to waste stationery. I am just making a plead because the training has not been well sophisticated and well exhausted because for every step we are doing in Parliament, there should be a provision in the budget to train Members so that you cannot embarrass Members in the Chamber. So that is why I said for us to do the training in the Chamber.

Mr Speaker, this Chamber is your Chamber; they should connect you even if you are in conference they should be able to connect you from where you are, that is a global phenomenon now that you should be connected. I can understand the constraints of Members but Mr Speaker on a very serious note, we need training. We cannot be ashamed to tell you that we need training; we want Members to be convenient in the Chamber. Members should be the ones even giving an advancement in what we are doing in the Chamber but you look at them these things are furniture to them *[Laughter]* so Mr Speaker our Colleagues their capacity in terms of ICT we have to improve on them, and the tablets some are of low standard anyway. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, we are lucky the Westminster Foundation for Democracy has decided to train Members of Parliament in this Well, so we all need to agree on a convenient date when we all come here to be trained in this Well. We will not allow strangers on that day but we need to agree on a set date for the Westminster Foundation for Democracy to come here and train every Member of Parliament.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** For the training?

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes because after today we are adjourning to the 18<sup>th</sup> of June that will be on a Tuesday. Can we come on the 19<sup>th</sup> for the training?

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Although we are also ready for receiving our Colleagues but Mr Speaker on a very serious note the 19<sup>th</sup> is not too far?

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes exactly.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** So can we say the other Wednesday, the Wednesday coming after the 19<sup>th</sup>?

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, the 18<sup>th</sup> is on Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> is on Wednesday.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Yes...

**THE SPEAKER:** So Honourable Members on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June we are all going to be here to do our IT training.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker.....

**THE SPEAKER:** Why are some people laughing? As Members of Parliament we should take the lead, we should be here on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** We will be here Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** We are going to take the lead.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes Leader after you, the Leader of the Opposition.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, some of us are *[Interruption]*...

**THE SPEAKER:** On November 26, I was here, I came and I sat, I presided here briefly.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** We are not presuming anything, we will come.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes we will come here on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** So if you do not come on the 19<sup>th</sup> do not blame anybody; we will be here to be trained.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** If you do not come then you are part of the master mind *[Laughter]*. Mr Speaker, I want to read with your permission.....

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes....

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, with your permission I want to read Section 75[d] of the Constitution, 75[d]; Subject to the Provisions of Section 76, it talks about qualification for membership to Parliament. D says; is able to speak and to read the English Language with a degree of proficiency, sufficient to enable him to take an active part in the proceedings of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I am a Member of the Pan-African Parliament, thankfully you have been a Member of the Pan-African Parliament. I understand exactly the Leader of Government Business was a lecturer in IT in Kenema; he is a professional in IT *[Laughter]*.

**HON MATHEW SAHR NYUMA:** Point of Order.

**THE SPEAKER:** There is a Point of Order.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Point of Order. Mr Speaker, I am not a selfish Leader, I believe I am making the place a little bit different with a modern time. I am a Member of the ACP-EU Parliament so if I see new thing coming, I think we should move towards that. All what we are saying, let us encourage Members to be trained in the ICT; so we can look at ICT as a place where all of us beyond the shores of Freetown we can progress. So my point of Order is that, I do not want the Deputy Leader to ridicule the situation that has to do with the training for staff and MPs.

**THE SPEAKER:** No, we are going to train Members.

**HON. MATHEW S. NYUMA:** Finally, I do not want him also to reduce the Pan-African Parliament; is a well advanced Parliament.

**THE SPEAKER:** He will not say that...

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Exactly.

**THE SPEAKER:** Of course he is the head of delegation.

**HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE:** Mr Speaker, for some of us who are Members of the Pan-African Parliament, all your documents are sent to your mail but when you get to Parliament, you will see the hardcopy and it is optional. For some of us who are not IT

specialists, we would take the hardcopy because we can be able to write jottings around the hardcopy and contribute. Mr Speaker, let us assume we have aged Members of Parliament and even one month training is not enough. Mr Speaker, it should be optional, we are Members of Parliament. If you know you have knowledge in IT and you have the document in your computer, you come to the Well without asking for document but if you are not IT knowledge and you need a hardcopy, you collect it from the dispatch that will make an effective Parliament. Mr Speaker, if you have noticed, even when we debate a lot of MPs go off track because they have not read the document before coming but if you have an opportunity to have a hardcopy, you can be able to read even at night before going to bed. It should not just come automatic. I know my Leader of Government Business is a professional, he can use his machine anyhow but for some of us and our aged Members of Parliament; it will be extremely difficult to train us one day or two days. Mr Speaker, I want us to copy the Pan-African Parliament system; I thank you very much.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay noted. Honourable Leader of the Opposition, after the Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Boston Munda and then we adjourn. I do not really want to open a whole debate on this matter. We have that on the 19<sup>th</sup> we should all be here to do our training, when we come here, please ask all relevant questions and I am going to be here on the 19<sup>th</sup> for the training. Yes Leader of the Opposition.

**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** Mr Speaker, I do not want us to create a picture as if it will be extremely difficult to begin to use our tablets. Almost everybody here has a smart phone and there is little difference between the smartphone and the tablet, just simple instruction you can be able to access information on your tablets once you can do it on your smartphone and secondly Mr Speaker, in as much as we have had a stipulated date for the training, in IT you do not train people when you do not expose them to continuous practice, the internet should have been made available to all Members of Parliament so that when they come for training, they will be able to put into practice at home what they have retrieved here.

**THE SPEAKER:** Certainly, Certainly...



**HON. ABDUL KARGBO:** So all modalities should be put in place Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** That is why I want to listen to Honourable Boston Munda.

**HON. BOSTON MUNDA:** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. It seems as if the Deputy Leader of Government Business is refusing to change but Mr Speaker on a most serious note Government has tried their best to ensure we move from analogue to digital. That is more the reason why we have the E-Government and now we have the E-Parliament *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hold on Honourable Boston Munda, after your contribution I want you to talk with the Director of the ICT Department. We have a concern, all what we need you to do is to engage one of those institutions under your purview; we are ready to pay so that all of those tablets are on the internet.

**HON. BOSTON MUNDA:** Certainly...

**THE SPEAKER:** Please work on that, if you have difficulties let us know. We would invite them to come here.

**HON. BOSTON MUNDA:** Definitely Mr Speaker, I have discussed with him already.

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes....

**HON. BOSTON MUNDA:** Mr Speaker, we all have to encourage the change, it has to be a must for us to have our I-pad or our internet to ensure we do the needful. You cannot continue to have hard copies, it is very expensive but whiles you are using your internet maybe it cannot be cost effective for Parliament. Mr Speaker, it will interest you to know that sometimes we cannot even have A4 paper to print because they have tried to move from the analogue system. Is not like they do not have money, but their resistance not to use the hard copies, they are trying for us Members of Parliament to ensure that we use our I-pads because that is the fact. They have given us those I-pads and since we have those I-pads we have not been using them but we now have the modem in place and all of that. Mr Speaker, I will try my best to ensure we have the internet at expected cost so that we can do what we need.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Yes Honourable Kumabeh, after Honourable Kumabeh we adjourn; Honourable AKK you want to say something? Okay after you we adjourn.

**HON. ALICE JEBBEH KUMABEH:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I stand here today with a heavy heart to talk about the Taiye River saga. The Taiya River issue came up in the Fifth Parliament. I moved a Motion in this Well on how the river has been mal-handled and misused by illicit miners. Frantic efforts were made by Mr Speaker who instituted the Committee that went on for the investigations. Indeed, the Committee did a very good job by going to the field to ascertain the pollution source of the Taiye River.

Mr Speaker, the Report was stated that the Pampana River and the Yoni Rivers emptied themselves in the Taiye River somewhere in the Tonkolili District; due to the use of heavy duty machines. That Report was laid in this Parliament by the Chairman of the Mines and Minerals Committee, the Honourable Member from Kono. And since that time, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, nothing has been heard or done or said about the Taiye River. To me, the issue was not really treated with the seriousness it deserved. And now, the river has become dirtier and polluted than ever. Mr Speaker, after the findings of the Committee, they made several recommendations which were never implemented. As the people's representative from Bonthe District especially from [Jong Chieftdom], where we get the heaviest impact of this pollution. I now want to tell you Mr Speaker to please look into the matter of the Taiye River pollution and also to invite the two Ministers [Minister of Lands and Minister of Mines and Minerals] to answer questions pertaining to the pollution of the Taiye River. Mr Speaker, for now, that is all I have to say. Thank you very much.

**SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, after Honourable AKK, we are adjourning. You know our calling is to talk [*Laughter*] so if you allow Members of Parliament we will not leave here. Honourable AKK after you, we are adjourning so everybody holds on to your points.

**HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA:** Mr Speaker, almost a month ago, we discussed the issue of “Kush” in this well, and as good citizens, we decided to support Government to have State of Emergency and to look out for a way to remedy the situation. Mr Speaker, we have young people dying in prisons in silent. Mr Speaker, one of the things we have decided to pass is the State of Emergency and to have Regulations to have the victims who are the young people taking the Kush to be sent to rehabilitation centres. I want to report to this House that ever since those Regulations were passed, nothing has been done. The worst that is happening now is young people have been arrested, taken to the Police, charged to Court, and they go to those prisons Mr Speaker, S.O 2 “with big, big saw foot dem” and this situation is terrible when you go to the prisons. I am still urging that we speed up the rehabilitation centres so we can save the lives of our young people.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay!

**HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA:** We should not treat them as criminal see them as victims.

**THE SPEAKER:** Noted!

**HON. ABDUL KARIM KAMARA:** I am saying this today because we are all parents and we are all potential victims. Let us help the young people. Thank you Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay! My hands are tied by two Leaders; Honourable Aaron Koroma and Honourable Lamina. So hurry up 3 mintues please.

**HON. AARON ARUNA KOROMA:** Mr Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the House a very important issue that I think is affecting our people. Mr Speaker about three days ago the EWRC which is the Electricity Water Regulatory Commission made a publication and in that publication, they are about to abolish the ban in the electricity tariff structure. For better education, the ban is the structure that caters for 80% of the cadre of the people we are representing, that is the social tariff. Before now it used to be for people who could not afford to buy above 50 kilowatt hour a month that is how it used to be, it was 0-50; and it was reduced from 0-25 kilowatt hour. Those people were

given special tariff that is, it caters for people who are not necessary able to use ACs in their homes but they only need electricity for maybe just basic TVs or maybe to put on bulbs. They are now saying that particular cadre should be abolished. They are now going to be put apart with those who can afford and I think Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is something we have to give a thorough review. So I want to urge that this House considers this issue important and summon the relevant authorities to provide answers accordingly. I thank you very much *[Applause]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay, let the preliminary work be done by the Committee, is the Chairman here? Do we have the Deputy Chairman? Please inform the Chairman let the preliminary work be done and the Report be brought to this Parliament before we come in as Leaders.

**HON. TAMBA KELLIE:** Mr Speaker, please a minute...

**THE SPEAKER:** On this matter?

**HON. TAMBA KELLIE:** Yes...

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay....

**HON. TAMBA KELLIE:** Mr Speaker, the difficulty is, I am part of the Energy Committee, and we have not met. I spent 10 years with the then NPA. We unbundled that section, I was the first Director General of EWRC.

**THE SPEAKER:** If you do not meet against Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> then we will take over that matter as Leaders, we will take over that matter as Leaders and I will get the Leaders to meet with the authorities.

**HON. TAMBA KELLIE:** Absolutely, I will be glad for that Sir.

**THE SPEAKER:** If you do not meet, Deputy Chairman I hope you hear me clearly, and make sure you address that issue against the 18<sup>th</sup> of June otherwise the Leadership will take over that matter. Yes Honourable Lamina.

**HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA:** Mr Speaker, consequent upon the submission of Honourable Alice Kumabeh from Bonthe District, I will tell you that I feel pain and also

bring to the remembrance of the work done by former Honourable Dr Kalokoh on Tanah and Tayia River. He did a very thorough job, that oversight was so tough, very sensitive for 72 hours the transfer between Tonkolili District, Bonthe District, Moyamba District and Bo District with a very comprehensive Report. I will refer you to the desk of your predecessor what I did, the recommendations were so rich and because elections were at hand at that particular moment, the erstwhile Speaker could not call the relevant MDAs for the implementations but I want to refer you to your archive, look at it very well and the recommendations are worth implementing. They will do this House good as well as the respective Paramount Chiefs *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** You were the Chairman not so?

**HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA:** Definitely, it was an ad hoc Committee *[Interruption]*.

**THE SPEAKER:** Do you have copies?

**HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA:** Definitely, I should and even the library has.

**THE SPEAKER:** Okay you have a copy?

**HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA:** Definitely, by all means I can supply you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Can you please make that available?

**HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA:** I can supply you, the recommendations were so rich, and I can tell you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Honourable Alice Kumabeh as a matter of fact, we do not have the Report here now; can you please bring us up to a speed on the 18<sup>th</sup> on this same issue?

**HON. EMERSON SAA LAMINA:** By all means, she is supposed to.

**THE SPEAKER:** Please on the 18<sup>th</sup> bring us up to a speed and please make the Report available to the Clerk's Office for production so that Members can have it and take a concrete action on the recommendations.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**MRS BINTU WESTON:** All Members of the Committee on Works are invited to a meeting at the Office of the Chairman located at the basement of the Old Administrative Building.

**Signed:** Honourable Bashiru Silikie, Chairman

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MR SPEAKER ADJOURNED THE HOUSE TO TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2024**

**AT 10:AM**

**THE HOUSE ROSE AT 12:03 PM**









