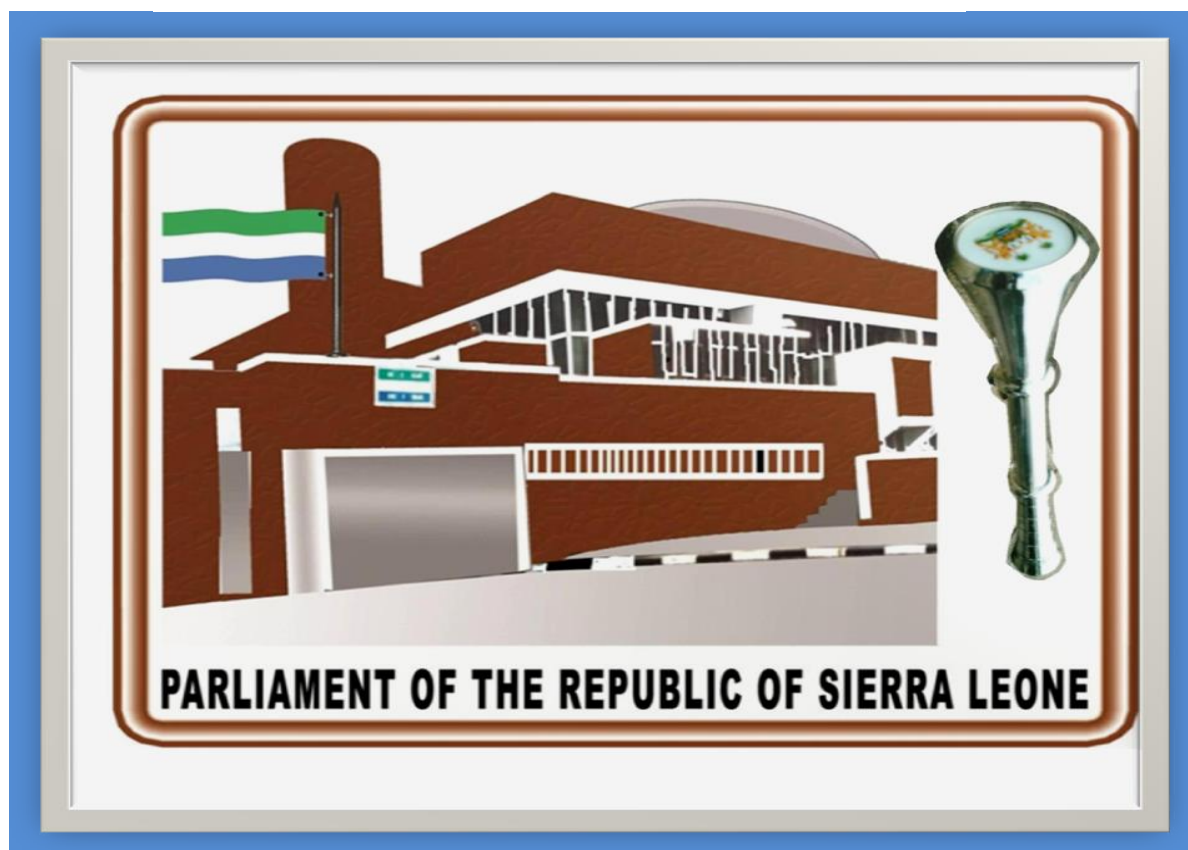


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OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

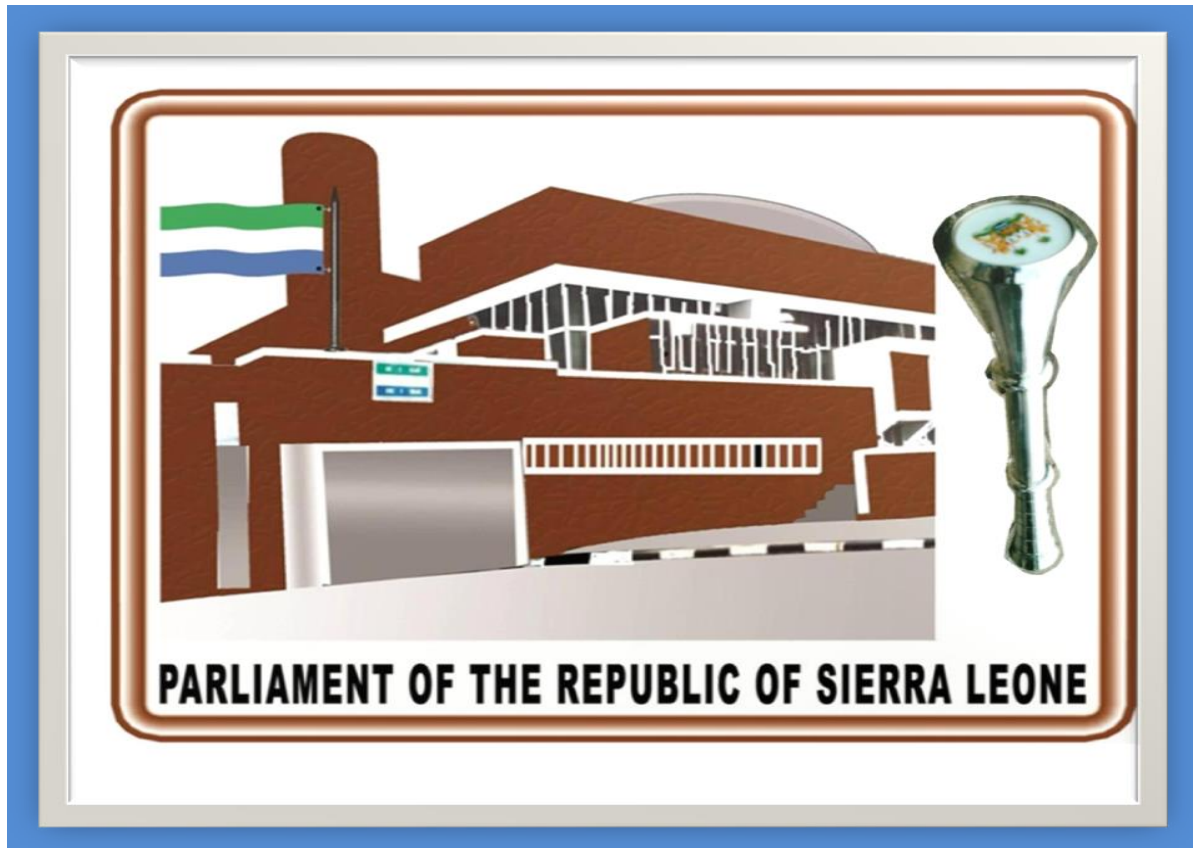
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION –FIRST MEETING

FRIDAY 9TH AUGUST 2024

SESSION – 2023/2024



OAU DRIVE, TOWER HILL, FREETOWN

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: I

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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 Friday 9th August 2024

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PROPOSER: HONOURABLE BASHIRU SILIKIE

SECONDER: HONOURABLE BERNADETTE W. SONGA

‘BE IT RESOLVED THAT: THE FIRST REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THE RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED’.



THE CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Official Hansard Report of the Proceedings of the House

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

FRIDAY 9TH AUGUST 2024

PRAYERS

*[Legislative Department Deputy Director II, The Table Clerk, Mrs. Fatmata Bintu Weston
Read the Prayers]*

[The House met at 10: 10:05 a.m. in Parliament Building, Tower Hill, Freetown]

[The Speaker, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas in the Chair]

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

**ADOPTION OF RECORD OF VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR THURSDAY 8
AUGUST 2024.**

SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the record of Votes and Proceedings for Thursday 8 August 2024. Pages 1 to 15, can a member please move.

HON. BINTU F. BOCKARIE: I so move Mr Speaker

THE SPEAKER: Any Seconder

HON IDRIS S. KAMARA: I so second Mr Speaker

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed To]

The record of votes and proceedings for Thursday 8th August 2024 has been adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I am to inform you for purposes of emphasis that the recess this year commences on the 31st of August 2024. For emphasis, I want this to be recorded so that somebody does not come up some day to say otherwise.

The recess commences on 31 August 2024. I want to be recorded again, and Honourable Members, do not forget that tomorrow we have the Parliamentary Dinner, at the Bintumani Conference Centre Aberdeen Freetown. This dinner is meant for the House, Members of Parliament, but we are going to ensure that we invite a few friends to dine with us but the dinner is purposely for Members of Parliament Please ensure that you are in attendance and the dinner starts at 6pm. Please I want this to be in your WhatSapp groups, I want you to send reminders in your WhatSapp groups. Because if we have a dinner by the House, it will be unfortunate for us to go late. We should be here on time, so that at least our visitors, our invitees will join us here please. Thank you very much, and trust me, you are going to enjoy your night. Thank you very much yes, let is proceed

MOTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Proposer: Honourable Bashiru Silikie

Seconder: Honourable Bernadette W. Songa

'BE IT RESOLVED THAT: THE FIRST REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE BE ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE AND THE RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED THEREIN BE APPROVED'.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Move the Motion

HON. BERNADETTE W. SONGA: I so second Mr Speaker. Be it resolved that; The second Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Committee on Appointment and the Public Service be adopted by the House and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, The first report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service on Parliamentary vetting of Presidential nominations.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service that is charge with the responsibility of vetting presidential nominees to serve in various offices of the state met on 8th August 2024 and interviewed two [2] Deputy Ambassador and a Board Chairman. The Committee conducted its open hearing within the usual framework of procedures, the nominee were vetted on issues pertaining to their educational background to ensure they have the required proven track record for appointment into such important offices of the state, other probing question asked to the nominees covered wild range of other issues relating to declaration of assets, tax obligations and their vision for a productive tenure. Issues of unsuitability or otherwise, were also closely looked into by the Committee.

First sitting of the Committee on Thursday, 8TH August 2024, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members in a quest for a radical transformation of the Foreign Service. Pursuant to Section 10 of the Constitution of the of Sierra Leone, Act number 6 of the 1991 Constitution and the energy sector Pursuant to Section 4 Sub Section 2 of the National Electricity Act 2011. It has pleased his Excellency, the President to appoint the following suitably qualified Sierra Leonean, subject to the approval of Parliament, to expedite his vision of making Sierra Leone a middle-income country by 2030. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members in fulfillment of its constitutional mandate, the Committee interviewed the following presidential nominees, Madam Princess Nyahota Baby-Rose Jah-Turay

HON BASIHU SILIKIE: Madam Princess Nyahota Baby-Rose Jah-Turay is the Proposed Deputy Ambassador Sierra Leone embassy Berlin Germany. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Princess Nyahota Baby-Rose Jah-Turay is an acclaimed accountant and financial management specialist with several years of experience. She holds a Master's degree in business administration from the University of Cuttington, Liberia and a Bachelor's in Financial services from the Institute of Public Administration and Management, a constituent College of the University of Sierra Leone, Madam Princess Jah-Turay is a well-organized, adaptable and disciplined individual that strives for excellence and success. Her sojourn in the public service spanned over two decades in various public sector offices, as listed below, from 1979 to 2011 she worked at the Accountant General's department that was formerly known as the government treasury, as the Account Clerk, responsible for computing gratuity and pensions for retired civil servants and preparing revenue reconciliation report. From June 2001 to May 2003 she served as accountant, Sierra Leonean Broadcasting Service mass media, she was responsible for the financial transactions in the office, internal controls and monitoring of the finance department. From 2012 to 2020, she served as a financial Attaché, Sierra Leone Embassy Liberia. From 2021 to date, she served as a caretaker administrator National Development Bank. The nominee assured the committee of a maximum Corporation in changing the trajectory and narrative from political diplomacy to economic diplomacy, she expressed strong sentiment of working closely with a substantive ambassador to organize investment conferences and forums to stimulate investment in Sierra Leone.

Engineer Samuel Jusu Alpha is a proposed Chairman Electricity Generation and Transmission Company. [EGTC] Mr Samuel Jusu Alpha is a seasoned electrical engineer with over 40 years national and international experience in electrical installation, power generation, transmission and sustainability, He has led several complex projects, developing safety protocols and maximize and optimizing operational efficiencies across diverse public sector companies and corporations. Engineer Alpha also served as the chief electrical engineer from 1995-1998 at the Sierra Leone Ore and metal Companies [URENCO] Moyamba District Sierra Leone. He was responsible to direct the generation and transmission of electricity in the Bauxite mining, additionally, he implemented energy efficiency measures. From February 2004 to date, engineer Alpha served as a private consultant engineer for executing various electrical engineering contract engagements. His key deliverables include, among others,

1. Providing expert consultancy services on electrical engineering projects.
- 2, Conducting site assessment and feasibility studies for new projects.

3, Designing and supervising the installation of electrical systems for residential, commercial and industrial properties.

4, coordinating with clients to ensure project specifications and deadlines.

5, Conducting quality control and safety inspections, assuring the Committee on revamping the value chain to ensure sustainable and uninterrupted power generation and transmission supply.

Engineer Alpha said, my engineering experience over the years on power generation and distribution is unmatched and unparalleled, I intend to provide immediate guidance and supervision of the management team to build a more robust and sustainable electricity generation and transmission supply network to enhance uninterrupted power supply throughout Sierra Leone

Recommendation, Mr Speaker, Honorable Members the Committee adjourned the following presidential nominees to be adequately qualified for their proposed appointments, and is therefore recommended to the House for approval.

- 1. Madam, Princess Nyahota Baby-Rose Jah-Turay, proposed Deputy Ambassador, Sierra Leone Embassy Berlin Germany**
- 2. Engineer Samuel Jusu Alpha, proposed Chairman Electricity Generation and Transmission Company**

Conclusion,

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members, the first report reflect the unanimous view of the Committee.

I therefore move that the first report of the second session of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service be adopted by the House and that the recommendations contain therein be approved, signed Honourable Bashiru.

THE SPEAKER: Before I put the question at this stage, I recognize the presence of the Chairman of the great Sierra Leone People Party

[Question Proposed]

HON. BERNADETTA W. SONGA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Honorable Members, before us this morning we have two fine educated, Sierra Leoneans, who have been remembered by His Excellency the President to serve the nation. Most of the

time we have nominees before us, and we tend to praise them. We tend as Members of Parliament to remind them about the many needs of Sierra Leoneans, and it is our hope that when they go to their offices or their departments that they have been appointed to, they will deliver for the Nation of Sierra Leone. Yesterday, as I was listening to my Leaders, they clearly mentioned that we have over 9 million citizens of this country, and so therefore, when you have been remembered by His Excellency, you know it is not by magic. It is not because you are probably beautiful or handsome, or the most educated, no, you've been remembered because of the services you might have delivered in the past, or the belief that you have something in you that Sierra Leone desperately needs. and so therefore when you go to your offices, please do the needful. I want to start with Madam, Princess Baby-Rose Jah-Turay, please forgive me if I do not pronounce your name properly. I looked at your resume, and yesterday, I was fortunate to be on the panel to interview you, and what your resume tells me is the wealth of experience that you have and your service to the nation. Now, you have been nominated, if approved by this House, to serve as a Deputy Ambassador in Germany Let me remind you that we are hoping your experience will be handy to us. Our embassy in different countries and Germany not being different, have been lacking in so many areas. One of the main areas is financial discipline. We are not sure what the embassies do, but there have been a lot of concerns with financial indiscipline. Therefore, when I looked at your resume and knowing that you have a huge experience in Financial Management, especially in the area where you said want to change the narrative of the embassy from just a diplomatic embassy to an economic embassy. Mr Speaker, with your leave for the benefit of the public. Let me just read what that means, economic diplomatic, embassy

We are used to just the diplomacy of ambassadors, but let me read what the economic diplomacy means. "It says it is a form of diplomacy that uses the full spectrum of economic tools of a state to achieve its national interest". That was of key interest to me when I looked at your response, how you intend to do that is quite interesting, but I know that is one of the things that we desperately need as Sierra Leoneans, to sort out investors, to reach out to people that might be of help to Sierra Leone, that might come and support our economy. But, what you desperately need, Madam Jah-Turay, is how you discipline your staff's in the embassy to be economically viable to the services that they deliver when you go to the embassy.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Yesterday, ambassadors were being addressed that you will be serving all Sierra Leoneans. Please ensure you pay attention to Sierra Leoneans in that country. They will need your support, especially migrants, when it has to do with immigration issues. Many of our Sierra Leonean relatives do suffer in most countries. They are being chased every day. They are being marginalized for different

reasons. And so it is your responsibility as an ambassador, to reach out to Sierra Leoneans who are in different difficulties, to see how you can support them, how you can mitigate the issues that they might be facing. Germany has a very strict immigration rules and immigration laws. We are not saying you have the powers to change that. You do not have the powers, but as a Deputy Ambassador, you have the right to intervene on what your people are facing, to interface with them, to encourage them. If there is a need to support them to come back home, please do so. If there is a need to help them to settle their immigration issues, please do so. You are being highly looked up to, especially as a mother, as a woman, we know you will do the needful when you go there.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I now want to look at our engineer, Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, what you just experienced in the well of Parliament tells you that you got a big task. Every now and then we have sittings and we will have shortage of Electricity. What is the reason? We do not know. But with your wealth of experience, we are hoping that when you go, you engage your Board Members, the Ministry and the different institutions that have to deal with issues like this, to see what you can do to address such issues. It is embarrassing to our country and for any government to succeed. This has been one of the major things that we have not been able to tackle. Our governments have done its best, and we will continue to do so, but more needs to be done, especially with the people who have been entrusted with the responsibility to Mann the affairs of our electricity supply. Engineer Few days ago I have been without light in my area, and that goes for so many MPs here, and so many Sierra Leoneans, and that was just due to a very minor fault, from what I understand was the line, whatever the reasons are that this minor faults are not addressed in few hours, in a day, in two days, we are not sure, but this is becoming a burden on Sierra Leoneans. It is becoming, an issue that is uncontrollable.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if I tell you engineer that everything that was in my freezer have been spoilt and thrown away. My colleague just said, *buy generator*. I have a Generator, but unfortunately, I cannot afford to fuel it all throughout for 24 hours for five or four days, I cannot I am only responding to that undertone because a lot of Sierra Leoneans are facing this, not because my colleague mentioned it, but because a lot of Sierra Leoneans are facing this and the reason I was frustrated yesterday when they went to fix this minor issue was because I took it upon myself to go to the streets to ask the workers, what was really the major problem? And they said to me **S.O[2]**, "Mommy Na be minor problem no more" .And for days, they could not identify and fix the minor problem. What is happening to us, it tells me that a robust monitoring needs to be done on the services that have been delivered. It is not because

the government is not doing its bit. It is not because the ministry is not doing their bit. It is not because the Board Members are not advising, it is probably because the people who have been charged with the responsibility to go out there and monitor what is happening, they are not doing their job. Every Sierra Leonean wants a job. If you go to most offices now, from morning to evening, everybody is taking job with laxity. But, the major problem is, when they have been entrusted with these jobs, when they have been given the opportunities to work or to serve, they do not take it seriously. They do not work. Mr Speaker, Honorable Members, on my way to work this morning, a constituent called me and said to me, their salary have been stopped for three months, and they want me to intervene. My first question to my constituent was, why has your salary been stopped? And he said to me, Mr Speaker, they said I went to work late, and my boss said I have not been turning up at work. I said, is that true? And she said, Well, sometimes it's because I was unwell. Is because my daughter was unwell at one point, I said, Well, unfortunately, I will not call your boss to intervene in something like that. What I am sensing from your discussion is because you are not turning up for your job, you are not taking your work seriously, and you expect to be paid at the end of the month. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, we want Sierra Leone to be beautiful. We want Sierra Leone to be the best country, but we think the citizens are not playing their part. And so you go into that institution as the Board Chairman. Your experience is amazing. When I looked at it, it is great to rely on somebody that has served this country so well. But are you going to be assertive enough to ensure that your advice to the board and to the institution is being adhered to. That is something that kept playing in my mind. We need a robust service, and for us to have that, it has to be from a Board Chairman that is thorough, that is assertive and can monitor services that are being delivered. In the absence of that, we will continue to have blackouts in this world. In the absence of that, we will continue to have blackouts in our homes over now and time we have been receiving people that steals cables, that deliberately disturbs services that have been rendered on this country. Now we are not saying you have the magic to stop that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what I want to say to you, engineer, is when you go to your office, when such things happen, is how quickly you will respond to ensure that we restore the services back to normalcy will be your task, because we will continue to have people who do not mean well for this country, no matter what we do, we will have sabotages who continue to destroy this country, but there are some we might not see. The police might not see them. Your team has to be in a position where they can respond to areas like this to ensure services are not disrupted for too long .When you go to your office, engineer, and see how you can advise your board on revamping that office. The dams are drying up what can we do as a nation, Bumbuna have been going

on but it has not materialized. What would be your advice to His Excellency through your department, so that we can revamp it. This is a major source of energy, and it can do great things for this nation if we have them revamped. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we only have two nominees today, and when I looked at their resumes, we need to let them go quickly to start their jobs, because the areas they are going, especially Engineer Jusu Alpha, are quite key to see changes in those areas. Therefore, looking at them, I think they are fine. Sierra Leoneans who can do the needful for us as a nation. We wish you well, and we are hopeful that you will make this Parliament proud. You will make your families proud, and you will make the nation proud. On that note, Mr Speaker, I urge colleague Members of Parliament that we speedily approve the nominees. Thank you,

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members. We had a very long day yesterday. I intend this sitting to be as brief as possible, I will allow. Honourable Edwin, after Honourable Edwin, Honourable Kelly, after that, we want to hear a voice of another lady, and we conclude, proceed Honourable Edwin.

HON. MOSES A. EDWIN: Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, since my comeback, I think this the first time taking the floor to make, at least, to give honor to which honor is due. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members. I have known the nominee, whom I am zooming into, Mrs Princess Jah-Turay. I have known Mrs. Princess Jah-Turay for over 20 years because of her steadfast and diligent service to this nation. That is why he was chosen by His Excellency to serve in the capacity which she is about to assume, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, because she has unblemished record in that capacity as Accountant and Financial attaché, is the reason for her appointment to that position. I have been with her in that field of accountancy for very long time. Mrs Princess Jah-Turay, you are now going there in a different capacity. You are serving your most recent, position as a financial attaché to the Republic of Liberia in Monrovia, and you prove yourself very truthful and honest. Now the word, of course, you will no longer be called Accountant, but Her Excellency. The word Excellency came from a Latin word "excellencia" meaning, surpass you, and surpass all others. The word excellent meaning, you are exceedingly good, outstanding character in your integrity because of all those attributes you have to exhibit, I will caution you that when you go there you are flying the flag of the nation Sierra Leone, you are not going there to support any singular party, but for the nation. Knowing you as a mother, I know you will do your level best, and the sky will be your limit, or mindful of the fact that you are going to meet your superior, the definitive Ambassador, and you will be the subordinate to that person. I want you to prove yourself as you have done, and to show that you are in for the job. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I think yesterday, there was a lot of fanfare,

but I use this opportunity today to resonate it with the normal life. You see, those are our people, and they that say Hosanna will be the same that will say crucify and we as a party, they are our people. We are not saying that you give preferential treatment to party people, but please do your bit to encourage them, because without them, we should not have been in existence. Then I will zoom again to the engineer. I was very key in the unbundling of NPA to the two entities EDSA and EGTC. EGTC generates and EDSA distributes, but there have been a lot of challenges. And these challenges are what the engineer you are going to confront, but what I will say is you, you are going to do it differently from your predecessors, they have been there doing their little bits. However, what are you going to do different from what they have been doing, or different from them. What are you going to do is that, are you copying the same pattern, or are you going your own way? I wish you well. And this country is in dire need of revenue, of money, resources. But please tell your colleagues. It is said that eat what you grow and grow what you eat either way. Nevertheless, please do not eat what you generate. Do not eat the revenue you generate. Please I know, tell your colleagues, because you are working in conformity, so that whatever revenue that is generated from that entity should not be put into your pocket please as you are going there, I had been in that committee before in the fifth [5th] Parliament, but there were a lot of issues emerging from the EGTC power and supply to EDSA. That EDSA has been a bad debtor to you, Change the narrative when you go there. Again I will end up with my lady, my sister, and my colleague to round up. I am so happy for you and prove yourself well. Fly the Sierra Leone flag. I thank everybody, and I want every member to join me to speedily approval of these fine nominees. I thank you,

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Tamba Kellie

HON. TAMBA KELLIE: Yeah, thank you, Mr Speaker first, let me congratulate the two nominees for the nominations, their resumes narrated to us validated the decision to nominate them to the positions they have been nominated to. So I congratulate them for that, I want to address the engineer who is been appointed as the proposed Chairman of the Sierra Leone Electricity Distribution and Transmission Company. Incidentally, I was legal counsel for NPA, while the previous speaker was the Accountant at the Ministry of Energy. So he and I have in depth knowledge about the modus operandi of that sector. Engineer, when we decided to unbundle the electricity sector, the idea was to inject efficiency in the provision of electricity to the citizens of this country. Now, anyone familiar with the operations of the erstwhile BKPS station, which saw BO and KENEMA and the National Power Authority [NPA], which was serving the rest of the country, we have no doubt at all about the plethora of difficulties facing those entities, they had all sorts of difficulties, mainly man made. So we decided to

unbundle the sector, separate Generation, Transmission from Distribution, Supply and Sales. Then created EGTC, which is the Electricity Generation and Transmission Company, which you are going to be Chairman, if you are approved. But engineer, what I find is that EGTC is almost more rebound. It is been neglected, as is evidenced by the non-operations of limited thermal facilities at Blackhall Road and Kingtom. So, when you assume office, one thing you need to do is to look into the operations of EGTC. It is our only generation facility that we have, apart from Bumbuna and obviously, the small mini grids we have around the country, So your attention must be focused on that and try to build the relationship between EGTC and EDSA they are looking upon each other as competitors. They are not one entity is created, one is to generate and transmit to the other to deliver and distributes supply. They are both parastatal, regardless of the name, they are state entities. They are agents of the executive. The Executive does not need those agents to perform its functions, because of the wide spectrum of powers vested in the executive, they create these entities to perform those functions, so they should not be seeing themselves are being in competition. So one of the things you need to do when you get there is to have an audience, and thankfully you are one of our most eminent engineers in this country, a graduate of the Christ the King College [CKC], like my Honourable Speaker himself, Andrew Kelly, is now proposed Chairman. I think he is been approved. He is going to be the Chairman of EDSA. Although he is a civil engineer, but he also has a considerable knowledge in electricity. The two of you can work together and help the government to alleviate, some of the underneath problems. It is mainly man made. That is what you will find. It is man-made. Government after government, regime after regime has poured huge resources into that sector. But yet we have difficulties, so engineer, I implore you, I plead with you, when you go there, get to your colleagues over at EDSA, work together and make sure we help the government to tackle the electricity problem in this country. Thank you very much, and I wish you well in your new role, and I hope you have the wisdom to do justice to this country. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON. EMILLIA L. TONGA: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. I want to thank His Excellency once more for our nominees. He has always brought beautiful and intelligent and highly educated people in this well of Parliament, Mr Speaker, I want to zoom on both of them, because it is important. But let me start with Mrs Turay, you are going to Europe as an Ambassador, and I have worked in our embassy. I worked, actually in our embassy for quite some years, and I have a good experience about diplomacy in Europe. I was their translator, Madam Turay, our people here in Africa, Africans, especially Sierra Leoneans, are dying in the Mediterranean Sea because they are running away from Africa. A lot of them have their Masters and Degrees in their pockets while they are dying in the Mediterranean Sea in the desert, and you are going there.

Some succeeded in arriving in Spain, and you will see lot of them in Germany, and you are going to Brussels, you will meet a lot of them and your duty is to make sure they are not abandoned. Lot of graves are there, I mean, they have been buried there with no names. If you go their it is pathetic. We want to stop that. How can we stop our kids dying in the Mediterranean? How are we going to make it for our country to be attractive? We produce 1000 graduates every year in West Africa, especially in Sierra Leone; we do not have jobs for them. Government cannot provide jobs for these people. So what do we do? And I am appealing to Mr Speaker and to this Well, let us change the narrative. Three students make the Silicon Valley we all know, when they left university, they came together and they created their own company, the Software, so we can do it here.

And for Mr Alpha, we have a lot of engineers. Engineers spent seven years in University; we can put these people together and ask the donors to bring logistics on board for them to make our roads. Why do we have engineers, and we bring Chinese or Senegalese to come and make our roads while we are studying the same thing, and we can do the same thing. I think Sierra Leone need to change the narrative. We need to put our students, who have passed seven good years learning, and they sit down. Some of them are riding Okada. So Mr Alpha, I really want you to bring this idea on board. Let is bring these engineers onboard producing and let them do what they have learnt for the past seven years, government has spent monies on them, especially the Engineers and the Doctors. The Senegalese company that is doing our roads here, and do not tell me they are clever than us.

Sierra Leone has being actually nominated as the country with the smartest people in Africa; we should let them know that. Mr Alpha, I am really pleading on behalf of our kids and our students for them to come together and create their own employment, and this will allow them be to self-employed, and I am asking the Government to provide logistics for them. They can make our roads. Mr Speaker, think about this, and I am sure we will change the narrative and this will allow them to be who they want to be. Government cannot continue spending money on them and then we call others to come and do their own job, and they keep on riding okada, **S.O 2 PAPA, YOU BORBOR DAE O**, is not fair. I am here to praise you, although I need to bring these issues as an engineer, you know how many years you spend in the University learning to make who you are today. They want to be like you, and God knows we have lot of roads to be to done in this country and the more we employ them to do the roads, the less money we give outside world for them to benefit.

So, Madam Turay, I am pleading. I know Europe very well. I have lived there. We have many Sierra Leoneans stranded there. And I believe we have difficulties in most of the

embassies. I just visited three of these embassies recently, and we are having, challenges in these embassies and as an experienced Accountant, who has worked in this country, please make sure our monies are utilized diligently and transparently. I wish you well, there are beautiful opportunities there. Bring it on board, bring it to Sierra Leone, and make Sierra Leone proud outside, thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, sorry, we cannot proceed with your contributions. You know I had ruled, not so, because we had a very long day yesterday. So please, yes, please. So Leader of the Opposition, so he is rounding up for you. Okay? Honourable Unpha for the opposition,

HON. DR UNPHA S. GBASSEY KOROMA: Mr Speaker, Honorable Members today, we are here to approve two fine nominees, but more importantly, we're here to give them a caution, as a parliament and MPs from both sides of the aisle have given their opinion and advice and giving recommendations of how they should hold their respective offices, but More importantly, we should recall or remember that whenever we are giving appointments, we should never see the offices as our offices, but see the offices as a capacity to serve, which means we should remember that there have been people in those offices before you, And there will be people in those offices after you It's a good reminder that we should never personalize these offices. We have somebody going to Germany as a Deputy Ambassador. That position is a very important position, an important position in itself, an important position for the fact that you are representing Sierra Leoneans that lived in Germany. We must recalled that Germany has had good relations with Sierra Leone since independence, long standing relationship. We should also recalled that Germany ensures that the international relationship with other countries reflect their culture values and aspirations. Their dream and aspiration is to ensure that they have a society that is not only diverse, but is also multicultural. So as you are going to that mission, Mr proposed Deputy Ambassador, we want to see a different story, a different story for the Sierra Leoneans living in Germany and the countries that are next to Germany, of course, we know a lot of Sierra Leoneans, are in need as articulated by other MPs, go to Europe to seek greener pastures. A lot of them travel and seek asylum. But in the process of them seeking asylum, some of them also need the support from the mission, and I have been privy to complaints from people that are trying to seek asylum requesting for support from the embassy. So as you go, as a parliament, we want to advise that you open your eyes to their demands. Open your eyes to what their needs are, because they have left the shores of this country and without you, or without any immediate family member, your support will not go unnoticed. So if you do not create that enabling environment, or if you do not create that requisite support for them, it will be hugely

challenging environment for them, for us that have left the shores of this country, we know what it means to go into another man's land. So we crave your indulgence to ensure that you do your best while you are in that office and leave an indelible mark for the Sierra Leoneans that you will be meeting in Germany. Members of Parliament have talked about the nominee, and I've talked about their sentiments about EGTC and electricity in general for this country as a nation, we continue to grapple with those challenges. And the last time I talked about us in the cities, not having electricity every day, but for our people in the villages, some of them are burned in darkness, and unfortunately, most of them will die in that darkness. So, as a nation, we need to think beyond just the cities. We need to start thinking about them in those interiors, how can we ensure to bring energy to them and as a chairman in a very important institution that deals with the generation of power, you have to go there with a mindset of how you can be more innovative, come up with new ideas. I will not say better ideas, but new ideas that will support what is already laid for the office and for us as a nation. We all know how electricity will change your nation. We know the factors that electricity give as a nation in terms of development. We know how attractive a nation will be if there is sufficient energy, we know what we do for the energy sector, what we do for productivity, what you will do for industrialization. So with that all in mind, let us see how we can be more innovative in generating power. Of course, alternative energy has been the watchword. Alternative Energy has been what we as a nation want to continue to think about. Solar energy should be another alternative as we struggle with hydroelectricity, because hydroelectricity, of course, we all see now in the rains, we have more electricity than in the dry's. So how do we as a nation ensure that we tap into the alternative sources of energy so we can benefit as a nation with that Mr Speaker, and in the sentiment of saving time, and in the sentiment that we had a long day yesterday, I want to crave This Honourable House to give their support to the committee that have already approved these members, or they have already brought these members to the Well to send them to their respective offices and to advise them to take note pieces of the advice they have given to them to see how they can change the narrative and make this nation proud, and the President that appointed them in their respective capacities. I thank you Mr Speaker, thank you Honourable Members,

SPEAKER: Leader of Government Business.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Chairman of Energy. Want to round up.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, you can.

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: Thank You Very Much. Mr Speaker and Honourable Members I want to thank my Acting Chairman of Government Business for giving me the opportunity for round up on his behalf. Today is a different management style on the Opposition side. We are going to be train, so by the time you leave; we will be able to perform to expectations. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is going to be very brief. We have two nominees here, and these are very important positions today. Mr Speaker, I have always said in this Well, one of the functions of a is diplomatic representation. Any government that is serious about diplomatic representation, then that government is a sober minded government. People have lavished praises on Madam Princess Jah-Turay who is going to serve as Deputy Ambassador in Germany. You have heard from other speakers. We have problem all over these places. Most of you, when appointed, you take up these offices, even when diplomats go to those countries, you do not care about them. We were in Abuja, the Ambassador at that time, four MPs, we are in Abuja. Even when we went to the Embassy, the Ambassador for him to leave his office to come and talk to us was a problem; he pretended to be very busy for three days. We were there. He did not talk to us the Four MPs, so we would not want similar thing to happen, but we know you are a grass root person by your resume. I did not know you before, but as people have mentioned you, I know you will not be that type of person. She is from Baoma, fine. I am going to be very careful.

She is from Baoma. She is a grassroots person, and she is going to perform extremely well for us in Germany. Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I like to turn my attention to Engineer Alpha. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I came to know Engineer Alpha when I was a student of Koiyema Secondary School. I had an opportunity to have a holiday job that was the time I knew Engineer Alpha; I admired him for one thing, when he was there working for Sieroko, you seldomly see him speaking krio to his employees, to his subordinates. He speaks English. That is one thing I knew about him, Engineer Alpha, you are taking a very serious task. The energy sector is challenged, but it is not peculiar to Sierra Leone. Mr Speaker, it is interesting to know that I was in North Carolina two weeks ago. There was a power outage for 45 minutes. So that tells you, even the biggest economy has energy challenge.

SPEAKER: Honourable Members order!!

HON. CHRISTOPHER K. VANDY: There are energy challenges all over the place, but it is left with you. How you handle your own situation. When you handle your own situation well, people will not know that you have energy challenges, but I am telling you that there are energy challenges all over the place. I am well-grounded when your own issues come you speak on it. So, Mr Alpha, you heard my sister there, Honourable Wuyata, that her food spoils in her freezer, who cannot afford to buy Generator when

the main grid is not on, Mr Engineer Alpha, let us take the government assets, the hydro asset we have. We talk about Bumbuna capacity is 50 megawatts. Now, we expect the output level of Bumbuna to be 50 megawatts, but as I speak to you, the output level of Bumbuna is not up to 10 megawatts now. Therefore, this is a very serious issue. We were there last month, myself, and few Members of the Committee. The water level is so down that instead of 50 megawatts, at this time, they were only able to give out 6.5 megawatts. Initial installed capacity of Dodo was 6 megawatts. Today, Dodo can only boost of giving us 1.5 megawatts. Charlotte the installed capacity is 2.2 megawatts today, only 1 megawatt. Then you talk of Port Loko, Bankasoka, installed capacities 2 megawatts. As I speak to you, it only gives us 1 megawatt, and that is your domain you are going. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, your sector is responsible for the generation of electricity. These are issues you need to look into. What are the causes? Why has these figures dropped so sharply like that? And when you look at Freetown, we need about 120 to 130 megawatt in Freetown. As I speak to you, we are only getting 77 megawatts in Freetown. The Kar-power is giving us 65 megawatts. Bumbuna that we expect to give us 45 Megawatt is only giving us 4 megawatts, and 2 megawatt goes to Makeni and Magburaka, so we are only getting 4 megawatts in Freetown, and Newton is giving us 3 megawatts, and makote is giving us 5 megawatts. A total of 77 megawatts is what we are getting in Freetown. It is far below what we need. If Bumbuna capacity that is of 50 megawatts is up and running, then I think we will not be having the problem we are having now. Somebody just made mention during the rains before now, we used to have sustainable electricity, but today, even during the rains in August, it is appear as if we are in January or February, because the water level has dwindled drastically in the Dam. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, another speaker also said, the synergy between EDSA and EGTC, there is a big problem there. The first time, I summoned this two sectors, in their presentations, EGTC reported to us that EDSA owed them billions of Leones, but EDSA cannot generate enough to take care of their own day to day affairs, we all know it is government. The Ministry of Finance comes in to subsidize otherwise it will be a problem. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, there are strategies that you are going to use. How are we going to address these issues? As I said, energy challenge is all over the place you go to Ghana, their energy liability, as I speak to you this moment, is \$1.8 billion but they are managing it. Nobody knows except you dive into it thoroughly. We will have energy problems, but the way you handle it, people will not know that there are energy problems. You went to Lebanon, \$200 million energy liability. Kar power shut down there and they seized the ship except they Sue them to court. You go to Guinea Bissau, \$70 million energy liability. It is all over the place. So, we do not want explanation, intervention strategies in management, use your own strategies. How are you going to handle these issues? You will have the rest of all the problems, what is

important here is we want sustainable supply of electricity. We will have the billions or millions of dollars loaned, but do it in the way that we have sustainable electricity supply, then other countries will even admire that Sierra Leone is having sustainable electricity not knowing that they are huge energy liability. So on that note, since it is going to be very brief today, and we are preparing to go for Juma prayer, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to thank you so much for giving me this opportunity and my Acting Leader of Government Business for giving me this honorable opportunity today as Acting Leader, because I am in Acting Leader position. I want to thank you so much. And I want to also thank the Leader on the Opposition for also appointing another colleague to wrap on his behalf. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, and thank you Honourable Members.

THE SPEAKER: Most of the problems we have today in the Paramount Chieftaincy houses is when those days people leased power to others. Most of the problems we have today saying our children are not old enough, so hold on to this power until later.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members , with that presentation, I moved on the first report of the second session of the Committee on appointment and the public service be adopted by the house. I so move, Mr Speaker,

[Question Proposed Put and Agreed To]

MOTION ON THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS AND PUBLIC SERVICE HAS BEEN ADOPTED

THE SPEAKER: Yes, proceed. Honourable Julian Fatoma

HON. JULIAN A. FATOMA: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members. I stand on S.O 23 to inform this House about a scaring occasion that is happening in my chieftdom or my district. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I have crocodiles in both rivers in the chieftdoms. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, you cannot understand. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, these crocodiles have killed four people last week, and it is very scary. Even today, they called me from my community. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this has happened in my presence, a little boy went to fetch water at this river, and this crocodile caught the boy. It held the boy by the head flapping him in the river and that it was so terrible to see an animal destroying life. That day, I was like shouting at the top of my voice. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, we need the attention of this Honourable House to come to our aid. These people are dying. The crocodiles are killing them. They hide by the riverside, where they have a crossing point; as they see people coming they chased them. I think these Crocodiles where chased from other rivers, so now they are plenty in my own area, and they are really

killing people. Therefore, I asked this House to come to the aid of my community to help save lives. We want a boat that will cause noise to scare these crocodiles away, because this is what other communities have done, and if we have, a boat with machine the noise will scare them away. And if there is anyway this House can inform the Government and other Organizations to help us so that we can scare these animals away or provide us with protective gears. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, where is the Leader of Government Business? This one falls under which committee head?

HON. MOSES EDWIN: Mr Speaker the security situation explained by the Honourable Member from Kenema District I think it falls under the Committee of Internal Affairs , Defense is for external aggression.

THE SPEAKER: who is the Chairman for the Committee of Internal Affairs?

HON. MOSES EDWIN: Honourable Kemokai, he is not around but his Deputy is around

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Fatorma, please do a letter to that effect to the Chairman and copy me. Yes, let me hear the Paramount Chief. Firstly, let me congratulate you on your approval. You may go, thank You very much for coming you are free to go Paramount Chief Proceed.

HON. [PC] PARIA K. KEAWALAL: Mr Speaker, the issue of bridge is still there. The bypass we were using the bridge has also been destroyed by the heavy trucks, and now the CRS, the container that they brought to that bridge is not enough for that particular bridge so I want you to add your voice again so that they can make an additional containers

THE SPEAKER: which bridge is that P.C.

HON. [PC] PARIA K. KEAWALAL: Karane-Kamakwie Highway bridge

THE SPEAKER: I have summoned the Director General [DG] of Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority [SLRSA], he will be here today.

HON. [PC] PARIA K. KEAWALAL: Please lay emphasis on the Matter. As I talk now it is about 3 or 4 days it is not motorable. This has cause the increase in the cost of Rice to 1300

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, yes Honourable Quee

HON. KOMBA QUEE: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, I want to stand on S.O 23. Under previous oversight, we were going to Kenema upon our arrival to Kenema I felt ill but it was at night so it was very difficult for me to leave the hotel room and access the hospital. It was just by the grace of God the Committee Clerk that was with us leave his own hotel room to come and check on me.. So upon his arrival the situation which he met me was very Serious so he had to take me to hospital. So in that situation my concern as Honourable Members. When going for oversight we should go with one of the Doctors or nurses along with us, we are Honourable Members we deserve such Facility. Let us say if the Clerk was not there that night what would have happen? Just imagine. I want to appeal to this Honourable House to take into consideration, also I stood up the last time about our IDs since we came here as Honourable Members we have not been given an IDs. I was driving to BO, and the President Convoy met me on the road, I parked, and when they passed, I decided to drive behind them I was traveling behind them when the ambulance stopped at the middle of the road, and they asked me who am I and I said I am an Honourable and looked at my MP number plate they take that into consideration and we drive behind till we reach Moyamba Junction and they stopped me and they asked me for ID card which I was unable produce at that moment. So they conducted a security check on my car. Say if I had my ID that Situation should have different. So, I want to ask this Honourable House that our IDS be available

THE SPEAKER: Where is the Clerk, where is Bosco Nabay informing him accordingly about the ID relating to the MPs. Let take action immediately to avoid future embarrassment to Members of Parliament. How many of you have your IDs? So they have not produced IDs, okay so let me assure you that the IDs will be produced Honourable Quee Sorry about that we will ensure that the IDs be produced. Thank you very much. Yes-Honourable Shaw

HON MOHAMED B. SHAW: Thank you Mr Speaker, Again I want to Thank you Mr Speaker I am more than happy today that you invited the Director General of Sierra Leone Road's Authority [SLRA]. Mr Speaker the issue I raised yesterday is a pertinent issue. The issue has to do with this Generation as the President said the last time we met with him "for every nation there will come a generation that sacrifices for the future generation" and sure we must be seen as that generation. The Road from Wellington to Masiaka is substandard road, I maintain that, I am very much pleased to hear that, and I know you are an action man. Mr Speaker I can be your Son because I spent a year with your Son in class. What I am saying is that as a young person you will do justice to this nation and I am sure you will do it and the justice you will do for us to see what is contained in the contract between the Government of the Republic of Sierra

Leone and the CRS, the Chinese group that is constructing that Road. Why are they collecting our money and doing substandard work for the Nation, for our children, for our future Generation? Why I am saying this is because they are replacing the tarred road with a cement concrete.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Let me hear the Chairman

HON BASHIRU SILIKIE: Point of Order S.O 23 for the general good of all, it should be a personal explanation and not bringing up issue that are debatable and again this is parliament. It is disheartening when a Member of Parliament questioned agreement. As a Member of Parliament all agreements are in the archive, go to the Library. When you ask question around document it is embarrassing

THE SPEAKER: Do not revert to document talk about the road

HON. MOHAMED B. SHAW: Thank you so much Mr Speaker. I am talking about something that is personally affecting me because even this morning I drove along the Waterloo - Masiaka road I drove to my site Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, the road is in a terrible state. Let us act now for the betterment of Sierra Leone. Mr Speaker I want to reiterate, the construction of the right-off way has nothing to do with the erosion that is happening on the road. I want to lay the premise Mr Speaker, if you go to Devil hole whenever it rains that part of the Road will be unusable. The Gas station at Texaco Mr Speaker is the best gas station I have ever seen in Sierra Leone. It is the biggest and best gas station. Mr Speaker the flooding that is taking place along the road is as a result of poor drainage facilities, poor drainage system Mr Speaker.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Mr Speaker point of correction S.O 23.

HON. MOHAMED B. SHAW: Leader should not be interjecting me, you are a leader allow me to learn Honourable.

THE SPEAKER: Hold on Hold on You knows when somebody gets up on the point of order?

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: The Honourable Member is a very senior Member of this House.

HON. MOHAMED B. SHAW: But you keep interjecting me.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: No, but when you now bring issues that are debatable that goes against S.O 23.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Leader, I allowed him because it is important.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Exactly but Mr Speaker, yesterday I said we went to Texaco. He is now putting up a defense for Texaco I know it belongs to one of his tribesmen accepted

HON. MOHAMED B. SHAW: I am not putting up issues that are debatable because you cannot show the individual who own the filling station

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Shaw, hold on, let the leader talk.

HON. BASHIRU SILIKIE: Yesterday, I said in this Well you have instructed that we should summon those people, including CRS, and I have assured we are going to do so Mr Speaker, and I know for sure, and for Honourable Members who went with us, to that road, can attest that that Petrol Station is causing more harm than good to the road especially that area. I do not dispute that there are challenges within the project, and that I have assured this House, I have assured you, as a Speaker that we are going to summon CRG on a daily basis; it seems as if decisions taken in the last sitting seems he has no respect for it. He keeps coming up with it now, Mr Speaker, when you talk about S.O 23 if you read, you do not bring up issues that are debatable, explain the issues, and do not bring them back.

HON. MOHAMED B. SHAW: Subject to the approval of Mr Speaker, do not worry about that. Yes, Honourable Shaw, I am concluding Mr Speaker, firstly, I want the Leader to know that I attached no sentiment to the contribution I am making. I am just being nationalistic and everything I see, I see Sierra Leone. I do not see individuals. I do not see things as he purpose them to be. The gas station belongs to my tribesman. I do not attach tribal in things that are National issues. The issue I am talking about Mr Speaker, you are paying the toll fee three times to Masiaka. If we cannot see pot holes, we see erosions on the road, we will ask why? Because we are expecting the Chinese to give us a quality road that is a National Highway, that is the face of Freetown, if we are replacing the Tarred road with cement concrete now, Mr Speaker, and we are still paying, and we have areas that are yet to conclude. Mr Speaker, if you drive along the road, you will cry. Mr Speaker, please help us. I know you are a good man, you will cry for Sierra Leone, because we have Sierra Leoneans, who think when we talk about National Issues, we are going after them. We are not going after anybody. We are talking about issues that are bordering the State. I have been attacked several times here because I referenced this road; the substandard of this road, Mr Speaker, protect me and protect the State. God bless your family.

THE SPEAKER: it all right I have allowed you to proceed, because I know you know. S.O 23 actually is for personal explanation, but when issues bordering on the welfare of the State are being mentioned, even if it is debatable, I give you the go ahead, because

I know it is important. We all want to hear so that we find solution. You know, because as I sit here as the arbiter of the procedure of this Parliament, I give permission for things that are beyond the rules, because I think it is important that we all hear and probably take action to ensure that we address some of these issues. Yes, Mister Speaker, let me assure you, Honourable Shaw that of course, I called the DG for SLRA, and he is supposed to meet me in my Chambers today so that we discuss all of these issues. We will take the necessary actions and thank God the Chairman for Works Committee also is here, and he also is passionate about the affairs of this State and what is happening. And I am sure he too is going to make the relevant calls. I mean, he has his Committee. I mean, they should be, on their on their toes, visiting some of these areas to ensure that we solve them. You know, yes. Do not worry the essence of communication is to understand

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: yes, S.O 23 sorry, yes, Mr Speaker, the issue of road safety, there is an authority in this country called Road Safety Authority. It is responsible for licenses both vehicles and individuals, but equally, even from the name Road Safety Authority; they are supposed to be responsible for the safety of our roads. Unfortunately, there are a lot of accidents now on the roads, the major highways, the roads in township and so forth and so on. And one of the reasons for this, okay

Suspension of S.O 5[2]

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Mr Speaker, I want to draw the attention of this House. There is an institution called the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority in charge of licenses, both vehicles and driver's licenses. But, most importantly, they are in charge of the safety of the roads. There are many accidents in this Country today and this because of stationary vehicles along all the highways. If you travel from Freetown to Bo, you see many stationary vehicles packed for the past one to three weeks. They are broke down, and they are not in a hurry to remove them. If we come to the townships, to the cities, for example, all of those vehicles are there, I must say, for example, the Public Relations Officer [PRO] am sure I stand to be corrected, the Public Relations Officer of the very road Safety Authority died a couple of months ago as a result of road accident cause by a packed stationary vehicle on the road. This institution should be brought to book. They have to be called to this Parliament or to the Committee, for example, let us know if they do not have the capacity to removed vehicles on the road as soon as possible, at least within 24 hours when the vehicle break-down, you have the necessary skills to repair them and remove them on the road. Otherwise, there are dangers on the road, they are causing accidents, and most of those accidents are fatal. They are fatal, and they are putting leafs or dirt on the roads. After they will leave all these dirts and leaves there. That is a very serious concern

THE SPEAKER: do a letter to the head of SLRSA to appear in my Chambers on Wednesday at 12 noon.

HON. FRANCIS A. KAISAMBA: Thank you very much.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker Adjourned the House to Thursday 15 August 2024 at 10am.

The House rose at 12:05 pm.