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PRESS RELEASE



PARLIAMENT APPROVES THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE AND SEVEN OTHERS

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Thursday 4th August 2022, debated and approved the Third Report of the Committee on Appointments and the Public Service, Chaired by Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma, Leader of Government Business.

However, the main Opposition APC party opposed the approval of Colonel Sahr David Ngaujah - Deputy Director General, Sierra Leone Correctional Services, citing that he is a Military Officer and should not be a Correctional Service Officer at the same time.

The following Presidential Nominees were approved by Parliament:

1. Mr. William Fayia Sellu - Inspector General of Police
2. Mr. Ahmed Amadu Turay - Director General, Sierra Leone Correctional Services

3. Mr. Amara Sheikh Sowa - Deputy Permanent Representative (Political Affairs) to the United Nations, New York

4. Mr. Sorie Fofana - Chairman Board of Directors, National Civil Registration Authority

5. Mr. Morris Sellieu Conteh - Member, Board of Trustees, National Social Security, and Insurance Trust

6. Mr. Musa Kargbo - Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority

7. Dr. Sherman Kamara - Member, Board of Trustees, Sierra Leone Students Loan Scheme Fund and

8. Colonel Sahr David Ngaujah - Deputy Director General, Sierra Leone Correctional Services

Congratulating the nominees after approvals, Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu said the nominees' humility, honesty, and professionalism are credible to none. He expressed that, the nominees are expected to demonstrate the best performance in light of professionalism and praised the new IGP for claiming the ladder from a junior rank to the IGP. "We hope you will live to expectations of the House". he concluded.

Seconding the motions, the Deputy Leader of Government Business Hon. Bashiru Silikie thanked President Bio for appointing qualified Sierra Leoneans to serve the State and went on to advise the nominees to sever diligently for the interest of the nation. He used the opportunity to outline the functions and responsibilities of Parliament, relative to law-making; representation, and oversight. He called on the nominees to serve well, adding, "in a not too distance future, we would be presenting our scorecard to the People of Sierra Leone", he stated and went on to advise the nominees to deliver. He bestowed honour on the nomination of the Correctional Center Director General and other nominees.

He called on the IGP to work in consonance with the laws of the State and reaffirmed his historical service to the people of Sierra Leone and urged Senior Police Officers to support him to actualize his dreams.

Hon. Rebecca Y. Kamara said the police's responsibility is to protect life and properties and went on to adore the new IGP for serving the nation and called on him to empower female police officers in the force. She called on the nominees to serve the nation to the best of their abilities.

Hon. PC Bai Kurr Kangbaro Sanka III said "peace and development is the custodian of development" and applauded the police force for maintaining peace and stability. He said for stability to thrive the police and the military need to do their best for the development of the State. He called on the nominees to work in the interest of the nation.

Hon. Mohamed Bangura applauded the support of Senior Police Officers for accompanying the new IGP for approval. He advised the new IGP not to copy the diabolical actions of the previous IGP, "The civil liberty of the people is paramount", he revealed and went on to emphasize the point that, senior officials of the State are being harassed by the police force. He called on the incoming IGP to support the police personnel on their welfare, relative to the supply of rice, uniforms, promotions and morals.

Hon. Hindolo M. Gavao commended the President for appointing a new IGP from the Kissi Tribe and noted that, the President is a Leader for all Sierra Leoneans. He reminded the House of the role of the police, "The police is geared toward the promotion of peace, security, and protecting the lives of the citizens", and went on to encourage the new IGP to serve in the best way possible.

Hon. Dr. Mark-Mahmoud Kalokoh in his submission, advised the NCRA appointee to work diligently and avoid the delay in the issuance of multipurpose identify cards to the people of Sierra Leone. He called on the IGP to do the needful in the execution of his mandate. He highlighted previous police incidents in the country and warned against police brutality.

Hon. Sengpoh Soloman Thomas, Deputy Speaker of Parliament said the nominees are hugely qualified and went on to advise them to go and do something different for the development of the nation. "We have a problem of mentality as a nation", he noted and went on to plead on the nominees to sever in the best interest of the state.

On the incoming IGP, he caution him to do the needful and said "Any IGP that is popular among the people is not working", and went on to state that, as a nation, lawlessness would not be tolerated. He said for any disruption of lawlessness, the politicians are the first to suffer and went on to congratulate the former IGP for serving Sierra Leone.

Hon. Hassan Sesay, Opposition Whip said he was part of the vetting process of the nominees and noted that, they were some fine personalities to serve the nation. He referred to Sorie Fofana as a fine personality, with a creditable journalistic background. He urged him to serve well at NCRA. He applauded other nominees for their appointments.

He objected to the appointment of the Deputy Director General of the Correctional Center, citing that the latter is a military officer and not a prison officer. "Let a prison officer be given the appointment and not a military officer", he reiterated and went on to state that, it is unfair to prison officers who wanted the position. On the incoming IGP, he acknowledged support for him relative to the good job he had been doing for Sierra Leone.

Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina, Leader of C4C said Sierra Leone is in no way a drought in appointing good Sierra Leonean in a position of trust. He said bringing radical changes would help shape the development of the nation. He called on Sorie Fofana to bring radical policies to NCRA, referencing Nigeria's policy that without National Identification Number (NIN) you can't hold or buy a sim card. He called on other nominees to serve well in their positions of trust.

On the incoming IGP, he advised him to work well for the interest of the State and went on to submit references where military officers have held top positions in state institutions, besides the Military.

Hon Sahr Juana said the appointment of the incoming IGP exhibited the absence of tribalism and praised the President for appointing the IGP from the among the Kissi People. "On behalf of the Kissi People, am humbled and thanked God Almighty for having the first Kissi man as IGP". he asserted, and went on to say that, this is a government of inclusion.

In rounding up the debate, the Leader of the Opposition Hon. Chernor RM Bah said lot has been said about the nominees and said he knew many of the nominees and their performances. He said Sorie Fofana is a fine gentleman and advised him to serve well in the NCRA position. On the other nominees, he expressed hoped that, they would deliver in the interest of the state. He said the incoming Director of prison is a personal family member and encouraged him to deliver.

On the incoming IGP, he said the latter is a fine personality and hoped that he would succeed. He encouraged him to distinguish between a misdemeanor and felonious. He encouraged the new IGP to work in line with the laws of the State "Let work on the positive", and went on to state that, they would support him when needed.

Responding to MPs on Military officers heading public institutions, He said they resign before serving. He said nobody is questioning the credibility of the proposed Deputy DG of the Sierra Leone Correctional Center, but questioned him as a military officer serving the Correctional Service." He serves excellently in the Military both internal and external", he informed and went on to state that as an opposition they are against his appointment because, he is a serving military officer and not a prison officer.

In concluding the debate, Leader of Government Business Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma said they should not forget about their history and went on top highlight the recent laws enacted by Parliament, relative to the promotion of good governance and democracy. He said the Sierra Leone Police deserved respect and must be encouraged to implement law.

The Leader reminded the House of police searching of the then Opposition Leader House, who is now the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. He called on all to denounce tribalism and regionalism in the development of the State. The Leader said he is a respecter of the law and hoped that, Sierra Leoneans would also law abiding.

On the questions of the appointment of Deputy Director Correctional Center Services, he said the laws of land provide for the appointment of the military officer to the Correctional Center, referencing Section 61 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, relative to Presidential appointments.

He said the appointment of the military officer is not a de-motivation, but a motivation and noted that secondment is allowed in the Civil Service.

He encouraged Sorie Fofana for the NCRA appointments to do the needful to serve the nation and for the other appointees, he ask them to serve well.

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