

**IN THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE FOURTH
PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**EIGHTEENTH REPORT OF THE
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE ON**

**THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINATION FOR
MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENT**

11TH JUNE, 2008

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Pursuant to Article 78 (1), of the Constitution, His Excellency the President communicated to Parliament his nomination of the following persons, for appointment as Ministers for the Ministries specified beside their names:

- i. Hon. Papa Owusu-Ankomah - Trade, Industry, Private Sector Development and PSI
- ii. Hon. Dr. Kwame Addo-Kufuor - Interior
- iii. Mr. Kwabena Mensa-Bonsu - Minister of State at the Presidency

By this communication, the President sought the prior approval of this Honourable House for their appointment.

1.2 In accordance with Order 172 (2) of the Standing Orders, the Speaker referred the nominations to the Appointments Committee on 29th May 2008 for consideration and report.

2.0 Procedure

After the referral, the Committee published the nominations in the mass media in accordance with Order 172 (3) and formally invited written memoranda from the general public on the suitability, qualification, eligibility, conduct, experience and capabilities of the nominees.

The nominees appeared before the Committee on 5th June 2008 and testified on oath about issues relevant to their record of public office and the position for which they have been nominated.

3.0 Reference Documents

During its deliberations the Committee was guided by the following documents:

- i. the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana

4.0 OBSERVATIONS

4.1 Hon. Papa Owusu-Ankomah - Minister of Trade, Industry and PSD & PSI designate

4.1.1 Fortunes of Presidential Initiative

Hon. Papa Owusu Ankomah who is also the MP for Sekondi disagreed with the perception that the Presidential Special Initiative (PSI) had failed. He however admitted that as an infant initiative, PSI was confronted with some challenges and needed to be dealt with through the injection of capital to enable it achieve its objectives. He further noted that it was necessary to reduce overhead cost and eventually meet global demands and fluctuations of market prices. He also cited that Nestle had certified that the starch produced at Bawjiase was high in quality and could be used worldwide. He urged various stakeholders to

contribute to help PSI achieve its set goals. Hon. Papa Owusu-Ankomah also commended Government for its technical support but expressed the need for a continued assistance especially with regards to the provision of access to regular market.

4.1.2 Invasion of foreign nationals in trade

Regarding the invasion by foreign nationals in various aspects of trade in the country, the nominee told the Committee that he would collaborate with the relevant agencies like Ghana Investment Promotion Council and Immigration Service to ensure that the existing laws relating to the operations of foreign nationals in the trade sector are applied to the letter. He urged District Assemblies to take initiative in the country's industrialisation drive by exploiting their various potentialities potential to create jobs for their people, "since the world is not waiting for us" he said.

4.1.3 Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

In response to a question on people's apprehension about Ghana's participation in the EPA, Hon. Papa Owusu-Ankomah told the Committee that the EPA in his view was a trade negotiation which had not been finalised but was an ongoing process. He however gave the assurance that given the nod he would ensure that negotiations are made in the best interest of the nation and all relevant processes are adhered to which would include ratification by Parliament.

With regards to the justification of Ghana for including 'Intellectual Property Rules' in the EPA agreement given the possibility that it might affect our access to technology, seed material etc, the nominee said that the main idea was to strengthen 'standard testing institutions' in Ghana to improve upon their work.

4.2 Hon. Dr. Kwame Addo-Kufuor

- **Minister of Interior,
Designate**

4.2.1 Combating crime

Dr. Kwame Addo-Kufuor, who is also MP for Manhyia appeared before the Committee and answered questions posed by Committee Members. The nominee who was referred by the Committee as an "achiever" said that his experience as a long-serving former Minister of Defence would also be brought to bear at the Ministry of Interior if given the nod. The nominee spoke passionately about armed robbery menace in the country and warned that he was prepared to handle crime in the country. Even though he did not reveal his strategy he noted among others that he would re-introduce the idea of neighbourhood watchdog committee and in partnership with his colleague of the Ministry of Defence deepen collaboration between the Police and the Military to improve level of patrol and regular road checks.

He expressed regret over the decline of confidence in the police by the public due to the recent incidence of public confrontation with the police, he stated that measures should be put in place to restore the confidence. He condemned the 'stray bullet' incidence and called for thorough investigations into the matter to ensure justice for the victims. The nominee also suggested that re-training measures would be instituted on effective policing particularly, in the handling of

weapons. If his nomination was approved, he would ensure that the Police Service would perform to the satisfaction of Ghanaians.

He also expressed concern about the menace of narcotic cases in the country and suggested that government should collaborate with other external agencies such as Operation West Bridge to extend services from the Kotoka International Airport to other checkpoints across the nation to avert future occurrences.

4.2.2 Non-Partisan relations

Dr. Addo-Kufuor assured the Committee that his current position as the Chairman of the security committee of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) would not interfere with his ministerial appointment and confirmed his neutrality with regards to national security. He stated that his main concern would be to ensure that peace prevails before, during and after the 2008 elections. He therefore asked political parties to count on his non-partisanship in the discharge of his Ministerial role.

4.2.3 Conditions of service for the Police service

The nominee expressed concern about the unsatisfactory conditions of service among the Police including the deplorable accommodation facilities that currently exist. He said that it was necessary that the Police are comfortable enough to effectively discharge their mandate. He suggested that rehabilitation of the barracks would be a short term measure for improving accommodation facilities while consideration is given to the 'prime land policy' as a long term measure to support housing policy in the police service.

4.3 Mr. Kwabena Mensah-Bonsu

**Minister at the Presidency
designate**

4.3.1 Interventions made in Togo

Mr. Kwabena Mensah-Bonsu who is also Ghana's Ambassador to Togo was asked whether Ghanaian students in Lome University had been paid their outstanding allowances, his response was in the affirmative. He said that payments have also been made with respect to debt owed by Ghana government to the university with a remaining balance of about 12 million CFA which is yet to be paid.

4.3.2 'Page 28'

Mr. Kwabena Mensah-Bonsu who is also a carrier lawyer, explained the circumstances that led to what was described as the 'Page 28' saga after a question had been posed. In his narration, the nominee stated that after a forensic examination on a judgement document at the Supreme Court he realised page 28 of the judgement had been altered.

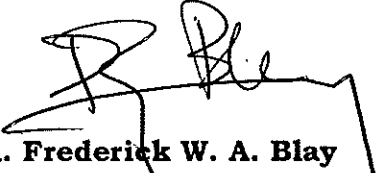
5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The nominees satisfactorily answered questions on a variety of issues that enabled the Committee to carefully consider their eligibility for their appointments. The Committee found that they had acquired and achieved a great deal in their previous endeavours.

Having fully met the requirements of the Constitution and creditably discharged themselves at the public hearing, the Committee is satisfied that the nominees are competent for the positions to which they have been nominated. The Committee therefore recommends the nominees in question, by consensus, for approval by this Honourable House. They are as follows:

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|------|----------------------------|---|---|
| i. | Hon. Papa Owusu-Ankomah | - | Ministry of Trade,
Industry, PSD & PSI |
| ii. | Hon. Dr. Kwame Addo-Kufuor | - | Ministry of Interior |
| iii. | Mr. Kwabena Mensa-Bonsu | - | Minister of State at the
Presidency |

Respectfully submitted.



Hon. Frederick W. A. Blay
1st Deputy Speaker and Chairman,
Appointments Committee



Linda Gyekye Boadu
Clerk to the Committee

11th June 2008