

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

**NINETEENTH REPORT OF THE  
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

*ON*

**MINISTERIAL/DEPUTY MINISTERIAL  
NOMINATIONS**

*15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2003*

## 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 to the position indicated against their names.

- i. **Hon. (Alhaji) Mustapha Ali Idriss** - Minister Designate for Works and Housing
- ii. **Mr. Alan Kyeremanteng** - Minister Designate for Trade, Industry & Special President Initiatives
- iii. **Hon. Edward Martey Akita** - Minister of State Designate, Ministry of Food & Agriculture in charge Fisheries
- iv. **Hon. (Alhaji) Rashid Bawa** - Minister of State Designate Ministry of Education, Youth & Sports in charge of Youth & Sports
- v. **Dr. Samuel Nii Ashong** - Minister of State Designate, Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning
- vi. **Hon. Joseph Akudibillah Kojo** - Deputy Minister Designate for Defence

vii. Mr. Stephen Asamoah Boateng - Deputy Minister Designate  
for Information

1.2 In accordance with Order 172 (2) of the Standing Orders, the Speaker referred the nomination to the Appointments Committee on 28th March 2003 for consideration and report.

1.3 Upon an appreciation of the urgency of some of the appointments, the Committee interrupted the recess of its Hon. Members to hold public hearings in accordance with Order 172 (4) on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2003 to consider the nominees and hereby reports as follows.

## 2.0 **REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

1. Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, 1992
2. Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana

## 3.0 **PROCEDURE ADOPTED**

In accordance with Order 172 (3), the nominations were published in the mass media to inform the general public and to invite their views in the form of written memoranda on the suitability, experience and capability of the nominees for the various positions.

On appearing before the Committee, the nominees testified on oath and answered questions on pertinent issues relevant to the positions that they have been nominated for.

## **4.0 OBSERVATIONS**

### **4.1 HON. (ALHAJI) MUSTAPHA ALI IDRIS – MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR WORKS & HOUSING**

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#### **Resume**

The nominee is a Member of this House representing Gukpegu – Sabongida constituency and currently Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. He holds a BA (Hons) from the University of Ghana and taught at Tamale Secondary School from 1981 until 1997 when he was first elected to Parliament. Hon. Idriss is forty-eight (48) years and married.

Among others, he shared his views on the following with the Committee.

#### **Housing**

Hon. Idriss said that his foremost attention would be paid to the housing sub-sector of the Ministry in order to reduce the huge housing deficit that confronts the nation. He said he would initiate and implement measures that would attract the required investments and technology transfer to actualise programmes intended to increase housing delivery in order to bring relief to the urban poor, especially.

#### **Adherence To Town/City Layouts**

Hon. Mustapha expressed the view that there is the need to strictly adhere to the layout plans for our cities and towns. This, however, requires a multi-sectoral approach.

According to the nominee, lack of adequate collaboration amongst various agencies in the housing industry plus sheer administrative inertia has resulted in the slums that one finds within our cities and towns. He would therefore engineer effective collaboration amongst all the relevant agencies to reverse the growing spectre of slums and perennial flooding especially of parts of the national capital.

### **Private Sector Participation (PSP) In Urban Water Supply**

The nominee contended that although some interest groups like the Trade Union Congress are opposed to the idea of PSP in urban water supply, he believes that there are significant merits in the idea. However, he assured the Committee that the matter deserved thorough studies so he will examine all the policy alternatives available to the nation before taking any action.

### **Korle Lagoon Restoration Project**

Hon. Mustapha was of the opinion that the current stalemate over the relocation of squatters at Sodom and Gomorrah that has halted the above project can be resolved amicably. He said he would draw on his experience from the Foreign Ministry and affinities with some of the squatters to resolve the stalemate to enable the project continue. He stressed that whatever solution is adopted must have a human face.

**4.2 MR. ALAN KYEREMATENG -- MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR  
TRADE, INDUSTRY & SPECIAL  
PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES**

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**Resume**

Alan Kyeremateng is currently Ghana's Ambassador to the United States. He is a Barrister-at-Law and management consultant and was the first Regional Director of UNDP's Enterprise Africa. He is forty-eight (48) years, married and has two children.

Among the issues discussed at the hearing were the following:

**Industrialization**

Alan Kyeremateng told the Committee that he intends to plan and direct a comprehensive export-led industrialization that would be a catalyst for the achievement of the country's goal of attaining middle-income status. He said his plan would involve the mass of the nation's rural communities because unless the bulk of rural dwellers are brought into the mainstream of economic activities, the country may achieve growth in terms of statistical figures but this will not reflect in the living standards of the people.

The nominee expressed the view that under the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) of the US and the EU/ACP Lome Conventions, major world markets have been opened to products of African origin and due advantage must be taken of these through the production and proper packaging of competitive goods by Ghanaian entrepreneurs.

### **President's Special Initiatives (PSI)**

The Committee observed that the nominee played a key role in the design of the PSI concept. He told the Committee that the PSIs are not limited to the coastal areas but have been designed to cover the entire nation, which has been divided into ten operational zones. Under the PSI on cassava, for example, ten industrial starch factories would be set up across the country in the next 2 – 3 years.

The nominee disagreed to a suggestion that the PSI would create a personality cult and weaken established state institutions. According to him, the initiatives rather demonstrate the highest level of political commitment to the selected crops that have been identified as strategic in pushing forward the country's economic growth.

### **Community Ownership of Initiatives**

Mr. Kyeremateng told the Committee that as part of the PSI concept, various beneficiary communities would be corporatised to own the projects whilst their management are out-sourced to competent experts. He acknowledged the difficulties in sourcing finance for small/medium scale enterprises and indicated that finance is being re-engineered for such enterprises to access in the form of equity contributions. The nominee, however, stressed that people must provide a basis for trust and confidence in such transactions.

### **Attitudinal Re-Engineering**

Mr. Kyeremateng stressed the need for attitudinal re-engineering by the Ghanaian worker, noting that the nation has not done enough to define the demands on labour over the years. He

reiterated that university training should be customised to the current needs of industry and the labour market.

**4.3 HON. EDWARD MARTEY AKITA – MINISTER OF STATE  
DESIGNATE, MINISTRY OF  
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
IN CHARGE OF FISHERIES**

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**Resume**

The nominee is a member of this House representing Ledzokuku constituency and is currently Deputy Minister for Defence. He holds an MA in Adult Education from the University of Ghana and worked previously as a consultant in organisation capacity improvement. He is forty-six (46) years and married.

Among others, the Hon. Akita shared his views on the following:

**Technology**

The nominee expressed confidence in the fishery resources of the country's territorial water bodies. He said the country is not able to satisfy its domestic requirements for fish due to the dependence on rudimentary technology in the industry. Thus, he intends to pay attention to the introduction of advanced technology and aquaculture farming to raise the contribution of the sector to the country's GDP.

**Human Resources**

Hon. Akita told the Committee that there is the need to also focus on the human element in the industry. He observed that whilst the development of the human resources in the industry is crucial, it is equally important to check the activities of some people whose



anti-social conduct undermine the growth of the industry. He proposed to encourage seasonal fishermen to acquire artisanal skills that can earn them some income during off-seasons. The nominee would also promote the formation of co-operatives in order to gain access to financial and technological resources.

#### **Distribution of Pre-Mix Fuel**

Hon. Akita was of the view that the distribution of pre-mix fuel in the industry is fraught with irregularities that deny fishermen easy access to the product. According to him, there is a "mafia" in the pre-mix fuel business and these must be eliminated to make the product regularly available to the fisher-folks.

#### **4.4 HON. ALHAJI RASHID BAWA – MINISTER OF STATE DESIGNATE, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH & SPORTS, IN-CHARGE OF YOUTH & SPORTS**

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#### **Resume**

The nominee is an Independent Member of this House representing Akan constituency in the Volta Region and is currently Deputy Minister for Education. He is a Barrister-at-Law and was previously the head of the Transitional Office of Non-Performing Assets. He is forty-four (44) years, married and has three (3) children.

Hon. Bawa informed the Committee that during his short service as a Deputy Minister he has learnt the need for high profile public officials to be humble, honest and appreciate the efforts of those that one works with. He said this is a rich experience that he will draw on in his new position when appointed.

### **Sports**

Hon. Bawa assured the Committee that even though he is a footballer and has great interest in soccer, he would not concentrate resources on the game at the expense of other disciplines. He stressed the importance of hard work, training and a competent technical team for success not only in soccer but also in all sporting disciplines instead of depending on the so-called "ways and means".

### **Youth**

The nominee expressed the opinion that the biggest challenge confronting the Ghanaian youth is how to harness their energy for productive endeavours. To him, the problem of widespread unemployment can be overcome if the youth are made to believe in themselves and appreciate the potentials in farming. He pointed out that it is important to adopt different strategies between the urban and rural areas in evolving a youth policy for the country.

### **HIV/AIDS**

Hon. Bawa also expressed grave concern over the menace posed by the rapid spread of the HIV/AIDS disease amongst the youth. He agreed to a suggestion that free distribution of condoms, as is done elsewhere, may be a relevant strategy to adopt but more importantly attention must be paid to the intensification of public education and other preventive measures.

**4.5 DR. SAMUEL NII ASHONG -- MINISTER OF STATE DESIGNATE,  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE &  
ECONOMIC PLANNING.**

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**Resume**

The Committee found that Dr. Ashong has been a Research Fellow at the Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA) since January 1996. Before then he worked in various capacities at AT&T Consumer Communications Services in the United States of America. He has Ph. D. in Economics from Boston University. He is forty-nine (49) years, married and has three children.

Dr. Ashong addressed the following, among others, at the hearing:

**Relations with Development Partners**

He stated that the nation does not generate adequate resources internally and therefore requires donor support for its development. However, he stressed the need for competence on the part of Ghanaian negotiators with development partners in order to ensure that the nation is not forced to implement unfavourable economic policies. He was confident that his experience has equipped him with some skills in this respect to strengthen the team at the new Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning.

**Poverty Alleviation**

Dr. Ashong observed that poverty is at the core of the nations economic growth and development. However, he did not believe that giving out sums of money to individuals and groups is the solution. Rather, specific projects must be identified, funded and

closely monitored to ensure the achievement of their intended objectives.

### **State of the National Economy**

On the current performance of the national economy, Dr. Ashong stressed the need to plan with funds that are readily available in the nation's coffers and not with promises by development partners since such partners would not honour their promises if the economy does not perform to their expectations. Dr. Ashong also spoke against planning with proceeds expected from the divestiture of state properties because the cash flow from that source is also irregular and unreliable. The nominee advocated realistic projections and planning of the national economy.

### **Political Affiliation**

Dr. Ashong told the Committee that he has no affiliation with any political party in the country. What he brings to his position is his knowledge, skills and experience in economic analysis and management and therefore will serve the nation to the best of his ability.

## **4.6 HON. JOSEPH AKUDIBILLAH KOJO - DEPUTY MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR DEFENCE**

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### **Resume**

Hon. Akudibillah is an Independent Member of this Honourable House representing the Garu/Tempane constituency. He also represents this House in the West African Community Parliament but would resign from this position when appointed. He holds a Diploma in Community Eye Health from the University College of

London, UK and was the National Coordinator for Trachoma Control. He is fifty-five (55) years, married and has four children.

### **Civilian – Military Relations**

Hon. Akudibillah told the Committee that he is confident that the present state of relations between the military and civilian segments of the Ghanaian society can be further improved. He noted that the current military administration has set up programmes to enhance their interface with the civilian population. He cited as examples the joint military/police night community patrols and road checks in the cities against armed robbery as well as construction works and aforestation programmes in certain parts of the country. The nominee stressed that when given the nod he will provide firm support for the Minister of Defence to achieve his vision for the Defence Ministry. He would also encourage the establishment of cadet corps in schools and among the youth to undertake programmes that would enhance civilian – military relations.

### **Vibrant Opposition**

Hon. Akudibillah admitted that the essence of a vibrant political opposition in Ghana's democracy couldn't be under-estimated. He told the Committee that it is absolutely essential to have an official opposition in Parliament to keep the government on its toes.

The nominee noted that there was no contradiction in his independent status in Parliament and support for the NPP government. He assured the Committee that his medical background has equipped him to be fair to all men irrespective of their persuasions in life.

**4.7 MR. STEPHEN ASAMOAH-BOATENG - DEPUTY MINISTER  
DESIGNATE FOR  
INFORMATION**

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**Resume**

The Committee found that Mr. Stephen Asamoah-Boateng is the Co-ordinator of the National Economic Dialogue (NED). He holds an MBA degree from Henley Management College, UK. He is forty-five (45) years and married.

**Privatisation of State Media**

Mr. Asamoah-Boateng expressed confidence in the performance of the state media organisations and disagreed that they should be privatised. He argued that they are useful in the propaganda machinery of the government in disseminating information on government's activities, programmes and policies. They also serve as important avenues for feedback from individuals, civil society organisation and political parties on the performance of government.

The nominee told the Committee that although there appear to be functional overlaps between the Ministry of Information and Government Spokespersons, in reality the Spokespersons are engaged by the Ministry of Information and therefore consult the Minister of Information in their performance.

**Transparency and Good Governance**

Mr. Asamoah-Boateng said the government's commitment to transparency in the governance process requires a well-organised machinery to disseminate information to the people and

provide them with a reliable means of participation in governance through appropriate feedback loops. In this, respect, he disagreed to a suggestion that the existence of the Ministry of Information presently is anachronistic.

### **Freedom of Expression**

The nominee expressed support for individual freedoms such as the freedom of association, freedom of expression and a free media. He stressed that whilst these freedoms are crucial for individuals in a democratic environment, they must be exercised responsibly and therefore all must respect the limits of freedom.

## **5.0 RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION**

The foregoing observations indicate that the Committee has carefully scrutinised the nominations mentioned in paragraph 1.1 and is satisfied with their performance.

Consequently, the Committee recommends, by consensus, all the seven (7) nominees to this Honourable House for approval and subsequent appointment.

Respectfully submitted.



**HON. E. W. A. BLAY**  
**1<sup>st</sup> DEP. SPEAKER & CHAIRMAN,**  
**APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**



**FREDERICK K. NUTSUGAH**  
**CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**