

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

**SIXTH REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE ON
DEPUTY MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Appointments Committee, appointed under Article 103 of the Constitution and Standing Order No. 172 (1) and (2) has the authority/mandate to consider nominations for Deputy Ministerial and such other appointments made by the President as specified, in this instance under Article 79 of the Constitution for prior approval of Parliament.

Pursuant to Standing Orders 156 and 172 and Article 79 of the Constitution, the Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament, on Wednesday, 28th February 2001, referred nominations made by His Excellency the President for Deputy Ministerial Appointments to the Committee for consideration and report.

The Committee, having held a number of sittings in the course of the recess to consider six of the nominees, reports as follows:

2.0 NOMINEES CONSIDERED

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| (i) | Hon. Kwaku Agyeman Manu | - | Dep. Minister for
Transport &
Communications
designate |
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- (ii) Mr. John Bennam Jabaah - Dep. Minister for Manpower Dev. & Employment designate
- (iii) Hon. Sofo Alex Seidu - Dep. Minister for Roads and Highways designate
- (iv) Ms. Sophia Horner-Sam - Dep. Minister for Western Region designate
- (v) Hon. Alhaji Moctar Musah Bamba - Dep. Minister for Presidential Affairs designate
- (vi) Hon. Benjamin Osei-Kuffuor - Dep. Minister for Lands, Forestry & Mines designate

3.0 **PROCEDURE ADOPTED**

The Committee continued to apply its time-tested method of getting an informed opinion as to the competence, eligibility and experience of the nominees.

As has been the practice, the media was used as a conduit for advertisements soliciting for public opinion in the form of submissions on the suitability or otherwise of nominees.

The Committee further relied on the expertise of a state intelligence institution to verify the credentials of nominees in order to determine their qualification and experience.

The nominees, on appearing before the Committee at the public hearing sessions, were extensively interviewed on oath.

4.0 **OBSERVATIONS**

The Committee received petitions as well as some objections raised, in respect of some of the nominees. The Committee at its caucus meetings discussed the issues of concern and the following observations were made.

- 4.1.1 Hon. Kwaku Agyeman Manu, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications designate convinced the Committee that he had the requisite experience to effectively handle his duties at the Ministry. However, at an earlier caucus meeting of the Committee, some Members had raised an issue of his credibility in the sense that he had in an answer to a question put to him, insisted that the past Government --NDC had not done anything at all, in his District. Although the Deputy Minister designate later changed his position on that assertion and apologized to the Committee, some Members felt that because of his earlier insistence that the past Government did nothing, he is not a credible person to be made a Deputy Minister of State. At the Committee's subsequent meeting, this matter was raised and discussed exhaustively. At the end of

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the discussion, Members present unanimously agreed that his nomination be approved since what he had earlier expressed is a question of opinion.

4.1.2 In the cases of Mr. John Bennam Jabaah, Deputy Minister for Manpower Development and Employment designate; Ms. Sophia Horner-Sam, Deputy Minister for Western Region designate; and Hon. Alex Seidu Sofo, Deputy Minister for Roads & Highways designate, some Members of the Committee at an earlier meeting made some reservations as to their articulation and mastery of issues relating to questions that were posed them by Members at the vetting. At the last meeting of the Committee however, some Members argued strongly that given time and opportunity it is expected that the nominees will rise up to their responsibilities. The Committee therefore, unanimously recommends these nominees for approval.

4.2 NEED FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS

Certain issues of concern were raised about Hon. Alhaji Moctar Musah Bamba, Deputy Minister for Presidential Affairs designate and Hon. Benjamin Osei-Kuffour, Deputy Minister for Lands, Forestry and Mines designate.

The Committee discussed the issues raised in detail and decided to conduct further investigations in view of their important nature.

The Committee expects to inform the House of its position on the nominees as soon as practicable.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee hereby recommends that the House approves the four afore-mentioned nominees of His Excellency the President for Deputy Ministerial Appointments.

Respectfully submitted.



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HON. F.W.A. BLAY
1ST DEPUTY SPEAKER &
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE



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PEACE A. FIAWOYIFE (MS.)
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

11TH JULY, 2001