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

**NINTH REPORT OF THE
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

ON THE

**NOMINATIONS OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE
PRESIDENT FOR DEPUTY MINISTERIAL
APPOINTMENTS**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to article 256 (2) of the 1992 Constitution, His Excellency President John Dramani Mahama communicated to Parliament for prior approval, the nomination of the following persons, for appointment as Deputy Ministers:

1. **Hon. (Dr.) Dominic Akuritinga Ayine - Deputy Minister-Designate for Justice and Attorney-General's Department.**
2. **Ms. Barbara Serwaa Asamoah - Deputy Minister-Designate for Lands and Natural Resources.**
3. **Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa - Deputy Minister-Designate for Education.**
4. **Mr. Felix Kwakye Ofosu - Deputy Minister-Designate for Information and Media Relations.**
5. **Hon. Cassiel Ato Baah Forson - Deputy Minister-Designate for Finance.**
6. **Ambassador Thomas Kwesi Quartey - Deputy Minister-Designate for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.**
7. **Hon. Emmanuel Kwadwo Agyekum - Deputy Minister-Designate for Local Government and Rural Development.**
8. **Hon. (Dr.) Bernice Adiku Heloo - Deputy Minister-Designate for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.**
9. **Mrs. Joyce A. Bawah Mogtari - Deputy Minister-Designate for Transport.**

10. Hon. George Kweku Ricketts-Hagan - Deputy Minister-Designate for Finance.

In accordance with Order 172 of the Standing Orders of the House, the Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the nominations to the Appointments Committee for consideration and report.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following documents during its deliberations and the public hearing of the nominees:

- a. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.
- b. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana.
- c. The Curriculum Vitae of the nominees.

3.0 PROCEDURE

- 3.1 As part of the procedures of the Committee for the discharge of its mandate, the names of the nominees were published in the print media in accordance with Order 172(3) of the Standing Orders of the House to invite memoranda from the general public on the nominees.
- 3.2 On appearing before the Committee, the nominees subscribed to the Oath of a Witness and answered questions relating to their records of office, the positions to which they have been nominated and issues of general national concern.

4.0 HON. (DR.) DOMINIC AKURITINGA – DEPYUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL’S DEPARTMENT

Background

Hon. (Dr.) Dominic Akuritinga Ayine was born on 6th January, 1966 in the Upper East Region. He started his elementary education in 1976 at the Lawra Muslim Primary School and the Tongo-Beo Primary School in the Upper West and Upper East Regions respectively and completed at the Adekura Middle School in Zuarungu in the Upper East Region. He proceeded to the Notre Dame Seminary Secondary School in Navrongo (1981 to 1986) and Tamale Secondary School (1986 to 1988) for his G.C.E. Ordinary and Advanced level certificates respectively.

The nominee attended the University of Ghana, Legon from 1990 to 1993 where he graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) and the Ghana School of Law from 1993 to 1995 for his Professional Practice Certificate. Hon. Ayine furthered his legal studies at the University of Michigan Law School in the United States of America between 1997 and 1998 and was awarded a Master of Laws (LLM) in International Economic Law. He later enrolled at the Stanford Law School from 2002 to 2003 where he was awarded a Master of Science of Law (JSM) Certificate and a Doctor of Science of Law (JSD) from 2002 to 2006.

The nominee started his legal practice at the Bentsi-Enchill, Letsa and Mate as a Legal Associate from 1996 to 1998. Between 1998 and 2001, he was the Director of the General Law Consult and later became the Executive Director of the Centre for Public Interest Law from 2001 and 2009. He also joined the academia as a Lecturer at the University of Ghana, Legon from April 2000 to January 2013 and has also been a Managing Partner of the Ayine and Felli Law Offices from July 2009 to date.

Hon. (Dr.) Ayine is currently the Member of Parliament for the Bolgatanga East Constituency in the Upper East Region.

Decoupling the Ministry of Justice from the Office of the Attorney-General

Sharing his opinion on whether he supports the call for the decoupling of the Ministry of Justice from the Office of the Attorney-General, the nominee stated that the call for the decoupling arises from the erroneous public perception that the current structure is being used to persecute political opponents. He stated that Article 88 of the 1992 Constitution only provided for the Attorney-General as a Minister of State. However, mention was not made of the Ministry of Justice.

Touching on the way forward, the nominee cited the case of South Africa where there is a separate Ministry of Justice and Constitution Development and an Attorney-General's Office and supported the recommendation of the Constitution Review Commission which stated among others that the current structure could be separated without any constitutional amendment.

Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA)

In responding to a question as to whether he would advise that Ghana signs the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the nominee noted that the EPA is a scheme aimed at creating a free trade area between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

He indicated that Ghana stands to benefit from improved production levels, access to high quality products and development should it sign onto the Agreement. He however cautioned that there could be substantial loss of revenue to the State if the country signs onto the Agreement. He mentioned that a study by the Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA) revealed that an amount of \$20million per annum could be lost should Ghana sign onto the Agreement. Again, the Agreement may have adverse impact on local industries which would not be able to compete favourably with imported commodities on the market.

The nominee assured the Committee that he would support the Minister in ensuring that the necessary safeguards are put in the current Pact to minimize any negative impact that the EPA may cause to businesses in the country.

Improving the Work of the Council for Law Reporting

Responding to a question on how he would assist the substantive Minister in reducing delays in law reporting by the Council for Law Reporting, the nominee indicated that the Advanced Legal Publishing produces the Supreme Court of Ghana Law Reports every year. Thus according to him, it is also feasible for the Council to do same. He however noted that under-funding and lack of the necessary legal personnel are some of the major challenges hampering the work of the Council.

He also stated that he would advise the substantive Minister to consider converting the Council into a Statutory Corporation to enable it commercialize its activities. In so doing, the Council will be self-reliant thereby relieving government of the financial burden.

Dealing with Industrial Action by the Judicial Service of Ghana

Commenting on the threats by the Judicial Service Staff Association of Ghana to embark on a strike action, the nominee stated that the Judicial Service is part of the Justice System of the country and by law, is not supposed to embark on a strike action. In his opinion, it would be illegal for the Judicial Service to embark on a strike action. He indicated that he would advise his Minister to abide by the decision of the Labour Commission on the legalities of the matter and convene a meeting with the Chief Justice with the view of finding a lasting solution to the grievances of the Service.

On the issue of the spate of strike action by workers who provide essential services, the nominee debunked the notion that the Labour Act has outlived its usefulness to ensure

industrial harmony in the country. According to the nominee, the Labour Act has been crafted to ensure industrial harmony in the country however, the National Labour Commission which is mandated to implement the Labour Act is not adequately resourced to enable it perform its role effectively and efficiently.

Addressing Congestion in the Prisons

The nominee attributed the congestion in Prisons to the unbridled remand of suspects and the refusal of bail to suspects for bailable offences by some Judges. He also attributed the congestion in our Prisons to the fact that Custodial sentences pronounced by Judges are not supported by any guideline.

He therefore called for the enactment of a legislation to guide Judges in the sentencing of offenders of the law. This according to him will eliminate the abuse in the sentencing of offenders by judges thereby reducing congestion in our Prisons.

Opinion on Gay Rights

Expressing his view on Gay Rights in the country, Hon. (Dr.) Ayine was emphatic that the act of homosexuality is prohibited by Section 104 of the Criminal and other Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29) which deals with unnatural carnal knowledge. He indicated that Act 29 prohibits unnatural carnal knowledge of a child under the age of sixteen. He added that it is also an offence to have unnatural carnal knowledge with a person above sixteen years without his consent. He however noted that there is a controversy over the interpretation of the offence in the Act.

According to him, as a Lawyer and a Member of Parliament who has sworn to uphold the Constitution of the Republic, he would not support gay activities as criminalised under the laws of the country.

The nominee assured the Committee that he would support the Minister in ensuring that the necessary safeguards are put in the current Pact to minimize any negative impact that the EPA may cause to businesses in the country.

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According to him, as a Lawyer and a Member of Parliament who has sworn to uphold the Constitution of the Republic, he would not support gay activities as criminalised under the laws of the country.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Hon. (Dr.) Dominic Akuritinga Ayine as Deputy Minister for Justice and Attorney-General's Department.

5.0 MS. BARBARA SERWAA ASAMOAH – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Background

Ms. Barbara Serwaa Asamoah was born on 18th December, 1974 in Offinso in the Ashanti Region. She attended St. Jerome Secondary School in Abofour (1993 – 1994) and Sunyani Secondary School (1994 – 1996) where she obtained her G.C.E. Ordinary and Advanced Level Certificates respectively. Ms. Asamoah continued her academic pursuit at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Degree in English and Law in 2003 and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) in 2008. She continued to the Ghana Law School for her professional legal training from 2008 to 2010 and was awarded a Barrister at Law Certificate (BL). Ms. Barbara Serwaa Asamoah, served as a Traffic Manager at ASSH FM from 2003 to 2004 and KES FM from 2005 to 2007 both Kumasi based Media Stations. She has served as a Legal Practitioner at the Law Trust Company (a firm of Solicitors) from October 2010 to date.

Women Empowerment in Politics

Commenting on the need to empower women to enable them play active roles in politics, the nominee stated that the prevalent political terrain does not favour women. She stated that to be able to influence a political decision, one needs to be part of the

decision-making process. Thus, it is necessary for women to be encouraged to pursue political ambitions in order to contribute their quota to the development of Ghana. She urged the younger generation to look up to successful women politicians as role models in their political endeavour.

Policy on Returning Unused Lands to Owners

On the issue of Government's Policy on returning unused lands to its original owners, the nominee stated that Government acquires lands by compulsory acquisition for purposes of social and economic development. Traditional Rulers in their quest to attract developmental projects to their communities may also willingly provide land to Government for such purposes.

The nominee further stated that even though Traditional Rulers willingly give out community lands to Government for developmental purposes, much attention is not given to the proper documentation of such lands. According to the nominee, this situation tends to create problems for the Government and the Community in the event of returning unused lands to its original owners. That notwithstanding, the nominee supported Government's policy to return unused acquired lands to its rightful owners. She however indicated that in such situations, compensations paid by Government should be refunded by the land owners.

The nominee promised to assist the substantive Minister to develop a Land Utilisation Plan to manage the development of such returned lands for the benefit of the needs of the Community.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Ms. Barbara Serwaa Asamoah as Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources.

6.0 HON. SAMUEL OKUDZETO ABLAKWA – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR EDUCATION

Background

Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa was born in Accra on the 11th of August 1980. He attended Association International School from 1987 to 1996 where he obtained a Basic Education Certificate. He further attended the Presbyterian Boys Secondary School, Legon from 1997 to 1999 and obtained a Senior Secondary School Certificate. Hon Ablakwa enrolled at the University of Ghana, Legon in 2002 and obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Degree in Political Science in 2006. He holds a Practitioner Certificate in International Project Management and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) at the University of London (international programme).

Hon. Ablakwa worked at the Research Department of the Parliamentary Service from November 2006 to August 2007 for his National Service. From 2008 to 2009, he was the Managing Director of Saavi Solutions Limited. He was appointed Deputy Minister for Information from 2009 to 6th January 2013.

Hon. Ablakwa is currently the Member of Parliament for North Tongu Constituency.

Achievements at the Ministry of Information and its Impact at the Ministry of Education

In response to a question touching on his achievements at the Ministry of Information and the impact it would have on his new role at the Ministry of Education, the nominee informed the Committee that he assisted three substantive Ministers at the Ministry of Information in transforming the Ministry through various programmes such as introducing the National Policy Fair which has been replicated at the District Levels.

He stated that having understood the intricacies of communication he would ensure that this quality comes to bear on his new role as a Deputy Minister of Education in the Ministry's interface more effectively with the public if his nomination is approved by Parliament.

Impact of NDC Manifesto on Education on the Youth

Hon. Ablakwa informed the Committee that the NDC Manifesto cuts across various sectors of the economy including education. He stated that education is one of the key sectors of the economy of the country which require a major transformation. He indicated that Government would provide 200 Community Day Senior High Schools and provide the pupils, students and teachers with computers. The nominee further stated that a Youth Fund would be created by Government to assist deprived young persons with entrepreneurial skills to enable them set up their own businesses. He added that companies that have the potential to develop would be given stimulus packages by Government by way of encouraging them to expand and employ more young people.

Duration of Senior High School Education

Commenting on the duration of Senior High School education, the nominee indicated that the issue is not about the number of years spent in school but the content and quality of education provided. He stated that if teachers are well motivated and the needed teaching and learning materials are provided, students would be better placed to perform better at the end of any given period in school.

Labour Unrest in the Educational Sector

The nominee mentioned that the current labour unrest particularly in the educational sector is a highly sensitive issue which needed to be tackled with care. Touching on the

issue of teacher motivation, Hon. Ablakwa indicated that a lot of concentration has been placed on monetary value as opposed to exploring other avenues to better the lives of teachers. He was of the view that measures should be put in place by Government to ensure that teachers are motivated beyond their monthly salaries with incentives such as housing and car loan facilities, retirement packages, recognition awards to deserving teachers, among others.

2013/2014 Academic Year Admission into the Universities and other Tertiary Institutions

Commenting on measures being put in place to ensure increased access to the universities and other tertiary institutions during the 2013/2014 academic year, Hon. Okudzeto Ablakwa indicated that with the exception of 2012 when the University of Development Studies (UDS) was unable to increase its admissions due to inadequate infrastructure, admissions into the Nation's universities and other tertiary institutions in general have been increasing over the years.

The nominee stated that to avert the reoccurrence of the problem, provision has been made in the 2013 GETFund Formula to complete unfinished infrastructural developments in the universities and other tertiary institutions. He was hopeful that resources would be released on schedule to enable contractors complete their projects before the 2013/2014 academic year admissions commence. This in his view would help absorb most of the Senior Secondary School (SSS) graduates in to the nation's universities and other tertiary institutions.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa as Deputy Minister for Education.

7.0 MR. FELIX KWAKYE OFOSU – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR INFORMATION AND MEDIA RELATIONS

Background

Mr. Felix Kwakye Ofosu was born on the 10th of May, 1982 in Accra. He had his primary education at Smart Experimental School and St. Johns Preparatory School from 1988 to 1994. He further attended Hansen Road SDA School from 1994 to 1998 where he obtained his Basic Education Certificate. From 1999 to 2001, Mr. Ofosu attended Wesley Grammar School where he also obtained his Senior Secondary School Certificate.

Mr. Ofosu attended the Kwame Nkrumah University Science and Technology from 2004 to 2008 where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science (BSc) Degree in Chemistry. He holds a Master of Science (MSc) Degree in International Oil and Gas Management from the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy (CEPMILP) of the University of Dundee in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Ofosu started work as a Manager at Dors Bakery in Accra from 2001 to 2004. From 2008 to 2009 he also worked with Endpoint Homeopathic Clinic as a National Service person. Between 2009 and 2010, he was appointed a Personal Assistant to the Minister for Trade and Industry. Mr. Ofosu has been the Executive Secretary for the Research and Advocacy Platform from November 2011 to date.

Relationship with Media Practitioners

In a response to a question on the kind of relationship he would establish with media practitioners, the nominee informed the Committee that he had worked closely with the media since 2009 and had a very cordial working relationship with them. He promised to maintain this relationship and establish a stronger bond with the media to assist the

substantive Minister propagate government agenda when his nomination is approved by the House.

Dissemination of Government Information

Commenting on whether government information could be better disseminated by the establishment of FM Stations in every constituency in the country, the nominee mentioned that the Ministry of Information was established to provide accurate and timely information to the citizenry. According to the nominee, failure by the State to provide accurate and timely information to the public could lead to civil strife and mistrust between government and the citizenry.

Whilst conceding that establishing FM Stations involves adherence to technical guidelines and other statutory regulations, he stated that he will support any initiative that will help improve information dissemination in the country.

Comments on Doctors' Strike

Explaining why he described the ongoing nationwide strike by the Ghana Medical Association as illegal, the nominee informed the Committee that section 163 of the Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651) explicitly forbids essential service providers (including Medical Doctors) from embarking on strike actions. Furthermore, section 158 of the same Act provides for all Parties to a labour dispute to be bound by the rulings of the National Labour Commission. He stated that the strike embarked upon by Doctors in the country violates sections 163 and 158 as well as other sections of the Labour Act, 2003.

Mr. Oforu stated that the Doctors may have a legitimate reason to embark on the strike but in his opinion, it is important to resolve their grievances through following laid down procedures.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Mr. Felix Kwakye Ofori as Deputy Minister for Information and Media Relations.

8.0 HON. CASSIEL ATO BAAH FORSON – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR FINANCE

Background

Hon. Cassiel Ato Baah Forson was born on 5th August, 1978 in Sekondi in the Western Region. He hails from Ajumako-Besease in the Central Region. He had his Basic Education at the Naval Base Primary School (1981 – 1983), Sekondi Presbyterian Primary School (1983 – 1986) and Bethel Hill Preparatory School at Ajumako-Besease (1986 – 1989). He then proceeded to the Besease Secondary School where he obtained his G.C.E (Ordinary Level) in 1994. He further obtained his G.C.E. (Advanced Level) in 1998 as a private candidate. Hon. Forson obtained Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) Part I from the Institute of Professional Studies (IPS) in the year 2001 and in the same year obtained ACCA Part II from Emile Wolf College, London. In the year 2003, he was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting by the London South Bank University.

Hon. Ato Forson was the Chief Executive Officer of Forson Contracts United Kingdom Limited from 2003 to 2006 and Concepts-Online Ghana Limited from 2007 to 2008. He has been the Board Chairman of Omega Africa Holdings Limited from 2004 to date and also the Member of Parliament for the Ajumako Enyan Essiam Constituency in the Central Region from 2009 to date.

Over Spending by Government

Commenting on the issue of over spending by Government, the nominee explained that over spending by Government is not always bad, but depends on items on which spending is made. The nominee indicated in his explanation that if spending is made to improve public sector wages or efficiency for instance, then it is worthy.

He further mentioned that subsidies alone contribute to over 1% of Ghana's budget deficit and therefore recommended a bi-partisan approach in addressing the issue of over spending by Government.

Addressing Ghana's Infrastructure Deficits

In a response to a question on how Ghana's infrastructure deficits could be addressed, the nominee stated that despite the fact that about 70% of Ghana's Budget goes into capital expenditure, Ghana is still confronted with a huge infrastructure deficit. According to the nominee, it would be difficult to address the problem through the traditional sources of funding and advised that other sources of funding should be explored. He mentioned that concessional grants which could have been used to address the problem have been dwindling since Ghana attained a lower middle income status.

He was of the opinion that Bonds could also be floated to raise funds to undertake infrastructure projects in the country instead of relying on traditional sources and grants. He added that Public Private Partnership (PPP) could also be used to address the deficit as in the case of China and Brazil.

Correlation between Inflation and Interest Rates

Commenting on the correlation between inflation and interest rates, the nominee stated that single digit inflation is not the only determinant of interest rates. He mentioned high risk of lending and availability of capital as other determinants of interest rates. He indicated that it is possible to have a single digit inflation and a high interest rate.

Hon. Forson informed the Committee that the Bank of Ghana has instituted measures such as the Credit Bureau System and the Collateral Security Register to address the issue of default risk of lending.

Ghost Names on Government Payroll

Speaking to the issue on ghost names on government payroll, the nominee informed the Committee that the on-going Biometric Registration for Public Sector workers and Pensioners had been very successful in dealing with the phenomenon. Buttressing his claim, he mentioned that from sources available to him, an amount of Fifty-Eight Million Cedis (GH¢58,000,000.00) has been saved as a result of the elimination of some ghost names on government payroll from July 2012 to September 2012.

The nominee assured the Committee of his commitment to provide the needed support for the review of the Registration Exercise to make it more effective and efficient.

Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)

On the issue of Ghana going back to HIPC, the nominee explained that the Ministry of Finance considers the Debt Sustainability Ratio (DSR) of the country before borrowing and currently, the debt sustainability level indicates that the country is not heading towards HIPC.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Hon. Cassiel Ato Baah Forson as Deputy Minister for Finance.

9.0 **AMBASSADOR THOMAS KWESI QUARTERY – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

Background

Ambassador Thomas Kwesi Quartey was born in Accra on 17th January, 1950. He attended Osu Home Primary School, South Labadi Estates and Tenashie 1 Middle Boys' School, Osu, Arko-Adjei for his basic education from 1956 to 1964. He proceeded to the Achimota School from 1964 to 1971 for his G.C.E Ordinary and Advanced Level Certificates. He obtained LLB (Hons) from the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana from 1971 -1974 and proceeded to the Ghana School of Law from 1974 to 1977 for the Professional Practice Certificate (BL).

Ambassador Quartey is a career diplomat who has served in the Foreign Ministry for a period spanning thirty- five years. He has held several positions in the Foreign Service notable among them being Director of Passport (2004 -2006) and Ghana's Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa with concurrent accreditation to Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Eritrea, Djibouti and Rwanda from September 2008 to December 2012. He was part of the African Union Team that monitored the 2009 Malawian elections.

The nominee has a passion for research particularly in the area of African/Afro-Caribbean, Afro-American History and Juridical Basis of claim for reparation as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. He is currently working on a publication on Kwame Nkrumah, George Padmore and the Roots of Ghana's Pan African Foreign Policy.

Simplifying Passport Acquisition in the Country

In response to a question on how he would assist the Sector Minister in simplifying passport acquisition in the country, the nominee admitted that there were delays in the processing of passports. He mentioned the use of outmoded equipment, frequent breakdown of equipment as some of the challenges militating against the smooth processing of passports. He stated that needed resources will have to be provided to repair broken down equipment and replace defective ones. On decentralizing passport acquisition, he informed the Committee that the Ministry has acquired offices across the country which are yet to be equipped to commence operations. He however stated that despite the challenges, a lot has been achieved and promised to assist the Ministry to deliver on its mandate.

Accelerating Integration of the African Continent

The nominee stated that the country could take advantage of the provisions of the ECOWAS Protocols which allow free movement of people across the sub-Region to promote integration. He explained that the differences in languages among West African countries could be exploited to move the integration agenda forward. He suggested that graduates from Anglophone countries like Ghana could be sent to Francophone countries to assist in the teaching of the English Language and vice versa. In his opinion, this would go a long way to establish a strong basis to facilitate integration and also help reduce graduate unemployment across the sub-Region.

Views on Ghana's Foreign Policy

Regarding his views on Ghana's Foreign Policy, the nominee recounted that the Policy was enunciated at the time of the Ghana's independence when the First President, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah declared the country's commitment to African liberation and unity. He mentioned the establishment of the Black Star Line and Military Bases as notable

initiatives that propelled the country's Foreign Policy. He stated that it was time for the country to add meaning to the established Policy. He opined that liberation means nothing if it does not lead to economic development of the people.

Attitude of Staff at Ghana's Foreign Embassies

In his reaction to concerns raised by Ghanaians abroad on the attitude of Foreign Officers in Ghana's Foreign Missions, Ambassador Quartey indicated that the perception of unprofessional attitude of Staff of Ghana's Embassies abroad is attributable to the conduct of just a few Officers. He stated that most of the country's Foreign Officers are well motivated, patriotic and diligent in the performance of their duties. He promised to address the concerns by assisting the Minister put in place the appropriate measures to curb the unfortunate development.

Relevance of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

The nominee in his response to the relevance of the NAM informed the Committee that the Movement was founded in 1961 (largely by Yugoslavia's President, Josip Broz Tito; Indonesia's first President, Sukarno; Egypt's second President, Gamal Abdel Nasser; Ghana's first President Kwame Nkrumah; and India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru) at the height of the Cold War between the Capitalist West and Communist East led by the United States of America and the USSR respectively.

He indicated that this period was characterised by uncontrolled acquisition of nuclear arms by the two Super Powers of the world then which served as a threat to world peace and security. He recounted that in the wake of this nuclear arms race, the founding fathers of the NAM garnered support from developing countries not to align themselves with either of the two blocs but rather channel their energies into fighting poverty and underdevelopment, apartheid in South Africa and the Palestinian struggle in the Middle East.

The nominee debunked the notion which suggests that the NAM outlived its relevance in world politics after the collapse of the then Soviet Union. He opined that the pertinent issues which influenced the founding fathers of NAM to form the Organisation are still relevant as issues of poverty, underdevelopment and the Palestinian struggle still persist.

Common Visa Regime among West African Countries

On the issue of having a Common Visa Regime among West African countries as pertained in some countries within the Euro Zone, the nominee indicated that it is a distant possibility as the issuance of visas by countries in the world is a function of their sovereignty. According to the nominee, most countries within the sub-region would therefore not want to cede their sovereignty in this enterprise of visa issuance, but was quick to add that the visa regime is worthy of pursuit in the future by countries within the sub-region to enjoy the benefits therein.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Ambassador Thomas Kwesi Quartey as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.

10.0 HON. EMMANUEL KWADWO AGYEKUM – DEPUTY MINISTER- DESIGNATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Background

Hon. Emmanuel Kwadwo Agyekum was born on the 3rd of December 1973 at Breman, Nkoranza in the Brong Ahafo Region. He had his Basic and Middle School education at the SDA Primary and Roman Catholic Middle School respectively from 1980 to 1990 in Nkoranza. He proceeded to the Kumasi Technical Institute from 1990 to 1994 for the

City and Guilds Certificate. The Nominee pursued a Diploma in Computing at Southgate College, UK and Access to Higher Education at Reading College, United Kingdom from 1999 to 2001 and 2002 to 2003 respectively.

Hon. Emmanuel Kwadwo Agyekum worked as an Assistant Manager for TABCON construction firm between 1994 and 1998. From June 2009 to January 2013, he served as District/Municipal Chief Executive of the Nkoranza South Municipal Assembly. He is currently the Member of Parliament for the Nkoranza South Constituency.

Achievements as a District/Municipal Chief Executive (DCE/MCE)

Touching on his achievements as DCE/MCE for Nkoranza South, Hon. Agyekum stated that in his quest to help realise the Local Economic Development Concept in the Municipality, he mobilised a Private Sector investor to process Jute in the Municipality. According to him, the Project would significantly increase service activities and also reduce post-harvest losses of maize production. He added that maize production which is a major economic activity in the Municipality provides employment for a greater percentage of the population.

The nominee further stated that the construction of a Poultry Feed Processing Plant which would provide an advanced method of poultry feed in the Municipality has also commenced. These Projects he indicated, would give opportunity to the populace to work together to improve upon the economic base of the community and further contribute towards the achievement of the Local Economic Development Concept.

Hon. Agyekum assured the Committee that he will bring his rich experience as a former DCE/MCE to bear on his newly assigned role to assist the Minister to ensure that government policies and programmes at the District Level are achieved when his nomination is approved by the House.

Election of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives

Commenting on the election of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives, the nominee stated that the proposal by the Constitution Review Commission to allow the President to nominate a minimum of five persons who would be vetted by the Public Services Commission (PSC) and the subsequent public election of the three shortlisted candidates would improve local governance in the country.

He indicated that this situation would create a platform for Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives to be accountable and responsible to the local community. The nominee however disagreed with the perception that election of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives is a failure of the Political Party system in the country.

Non-involvement of Regional Co-coordinating Councils (RCCs) in the Assessment of Metropolitan, Municipal District Assemblies (MMDAs)

Responding to a question as to whether the non-involvement of RCCs in the Assessment of the performance of MMDAs was problematic, the nominee considered the current arrangement which excludes the RCCs in the assessment of the performance of MMDAs as a contributory factor to the non-performance of some of the Assemblies. He therefore promised to work with the Minister to ensure that the Standing Orders of the Assemblies are amended to empower the RCCs to effectively monitor the activities of the Assemblies.

Motivation of Assembly Members

Commenting on the need to motivate Assembly Members, the nominee attested to the fact that the work of Assembly Members is crucial in the development of the local

government system. Thus, it would be appropriate if Assembly Members are motivated.

Hon. Agyekum promised to work with the substantive Minister to put measures in place to ensure that some incentives are provided to Assembly Members as a form of motivation to enable them perform effectively.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Hon. Emmanuel Kwadwo Agyekum as Deputy Minister Local Government and Rural Development.

11.0 HON. (DR.) BERNICE ADIKU HELOO – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Background

Hon. (Dr.) Bernice Adiku Heloo was born on 24th September, 1954. She attended Hohoe Primary School in Ahamansu, Taviepe from 1958 to 1964 and proceeded to the Ho Kpodzi E. P. Middle School from 1965 to 1967. She attended Mawuli Secondary School from 1968 to 1973 where she obtained her G.C.E. Ordinary Level Certificate and went on to OLA Secondary School from 1973 to 1975 for her G.C.E. Advanced Level Certificate.

In 1978, Hon. (Dr.) Bernice Heloo was awarded a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Degree in History/Study of Religions from the University of Ghana, Legon. She was subsequently awarded a Post Graduate Diploma in Adult Education from the same University in 1987. Hon. Heloo obtained an M.Phil. in Adult Education from the University of

Ghana in 1992 and an M.Ed in Literacy for Rural Development from the University of Manchester in 1993. She was awarded a PHD in Sociology from the European-American University, Dominican Republic in 2010. She also enrolled at the SMC University, Switzerland in 2007 and is currently pursuing a doctorate in Political Economy.

From 1981 to 1985, the nominee worked as a Senior Auditor at the Audit Service in Accra. She was a tutor at the Teshie Presbyterian Secondary School in 1986 and from 1990 to 1993, she was a Senior Program Officer of the Non Formal Education Division, Ministry of Education. Hon. (Dr.) Bernice Heloo was a Project Manageress at CARE International from 1996 to 1999. In the year 2000, she founded Pro-Link Organisation (a Rural Development NGO) and she has been the Executive Director to date. From June 2009 to date, she has been a Member of the Board of Directors of the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD). She has been a Member of the Board of the National Lands Commission and Chairperson of the Board of the Volta Regional Lands Commission from June 2009 to date.

Hon. (Dr.) Bernice Heloo is currently the Member of Parliament for Hohoe Constituency.

Female Education in Science and Technology

Hon. (Dr.) Bernice Heloo agreed with the assertion that the participation of females in the study of science is not encouraging. She stated that Science Clinics have been introduced to attract and motivate young females in this area of study. She added that public awareness could be created to sensitise parents and teachers to help them identify talents in young females and encourage them to pursue science to the highest level.

Intervention of the Better Ghana Agenda at the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation

The nominee informed the Committee that through the Better Ghana ICT Project, the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation procured and distributed laptops to students, teachers and educational institutions nationwide to enhance teaching and learning. She stressed the need for appropriate monitoring of the laptops to ensure that the laptops are utilised for their intended purpose.

The nominee further informed the Committee that the Government had initiated an annual Scholarship Scheme to provide scholarships to students who pursue science and its related courses. She added that the Scholarship Scheme would continue to disburse funds to beneficiaries to augment and maintain the interest of needy but brilliant students in the science and technology field of study.

Stigmatisation of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS

In response to a question on how Ghana had fared in reducing the stigmatisation of persons living with HIV/AIDS, the nominee indicated that persons living with the disease encounter a lot of discrimination. She recommended that awareness programmes be launched to encourage people to be more open about their HIV/AIDS status and also to educate the public on the need to avoid stigmatising persons living with the disease. She added that the 'Ambassadors of Hope', a group of people who have publicised their HIV positive status should also be encouraged to serve as role models to persons living with the disease.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Hon. (Dr.) Bernice Adiku Heloo as Deputy Minister for Environment, Science, Tecnology and Innovation.

12.0 MRS. JOYCE A. BAWAH-MOGTARI – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR TRANSPORT

Background

Mrs. Joyce Bawah-Mogtari was born on 1st January, 1973 in Tamale in the Northern Region of Ghana. She had her basic education at Bagabaga Primary School in Tamale from 1979 to 1984. She attended Tamale Secondary School (1984 to 1989) and St. Francis Girls School (1989 to 1990) for her G.C.E. Ordinary Level Certificate. She continued to Wesley Girls High School in Cape Coast between 1990 and 1992 for her G.C.E Advanced Level Certificate.

In September 1994, she enrolled at Holborn College, University of London, UK where she was awarded a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Degree in 1998. She then proceeded to the Ghana Law School between 1998 and 2000 where she obtained a Qualifying Certificate in Law. Between 2009 and 2010, Mrs. Bawah-Mogtari attended the IMO-International Maritime Law Institute, Malta where she obtained a Master of Laws (LLM) Degree in Maritime Law.

Mrs. Mogtari started her legal career at Peasah Boadu & Co. between 2001 and 2002. She served as a Legal Practioner at the Sey & Co. from June 2002 to September 2005 and a Company Secretary (Consultant) at the KPMG from October 2005 to December 2005. She was also a Legal Officer (Consultant) and Company Secretary at the Venture Capital Trust Fund from January 2006 to December 2006 and is currently the Board Secretary and Head of the Legal Unit of the Ghana Shippers' Authority.

Mrs. Mogtari is a member of several professional bodies including the Ghana Bar Association (GBA), International Women Lawyers Association, Africa Women Lawyers Association (AWLA) and Women International Shipping and Trade Association (WISTA).

National Airline

Responding to a question on the need for a National Airline, the nominee affirmed the need for a National Airline to carry the National Flag. She stated that there is no better way to market a country than through its National Airline.

In her view, the collapse of Ghana Airways was as a result of mismanagement and argued that with some capital injection, the collapse of Ghana Airways could have been prevented. She indicated her preparedness to support any effort to restore the National Airline and suggested Public Private Partnership as an alternative to be explored.

Driver, Vehicle and Licensing Authority (DVLA) and “Goro Boys”

On how to deal with the menace of “Goro Boys” and the issuance of fake licenses at the DVLA, Mrs. Bawah-Mogtari informed the Committee that there was the need to automate the entire process of acquiring driver’s license in Ghana. She said this will reduce human contact and possibly eliminate middlemen in the licensing process.

She indicated her preparedness to work with the Minister to fast track the automation process in acquiring driver’s licenses and other services offered by the Authority if her nomination is approved by the House.

Accidents on the Volta Lake

Commenting on how to reduce accidents on the Volta Lake, the nominee informed the Committee that lake transport remains one of the important means of promoting

economic activities in the country. She said the frequent accidents on the Volta Lake over the years have claimed many lives and affected businesses. She indicated that a number of measures have been put in place to avert the rampant boat disasters on the Lake.

Here again, she indicated her preparedness to work with the Minister to enforce and ensure compliance with measures currently in place to avert disasters. She further indicated that she would promote the campaign on the use of life jackets to help reduce fatalities on the Lake.

Carnage on our Roads

On the issue of road accidents, the nominee lamented on the high incidence of road accidents in spite of efforts by the National Road Safety Commission and the Motor Transport and Traffic Unit (MTTU) of the Police Service to reduce them. She mentioned that most of the accidents are caused by human error and called on road users to observe road traffic signs and regulations.

She commended the efforts by the MTTU and called for more enforcement, adherence and public education on road traffic regulations. She further lauded the introduction of Spot Fine for some category of road traffic offences.

The nominee called for a closer collaboration between the National Road Safety Commission and the MTTU in the areas of public education and the enforcement of road traffic regulations.

Rail Transport

On the development of rail transport in the country, the nominee indicated that rail transport remains the most effective and efficient way of hauling goods across the country.

She stated that if the rail system is well developed it will reduce pressure on our roads and possibly reduce road accidents. She indicated that even though the introduction of the axle weighing system has helped to reduce pressure on our roads, a well-developed rail system will help prolong the life span of our roads and also propel economic activities across the country.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Mrs. Joyce A. Bewah-Mogtari as Deputy Minister for Transport.

13.0 HON. GEORGE KWEKU RICKETTS-HAGAN – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR FINANCE

Background

Hon. George Kweku Ricketts-Hagan was born on 21st August, 1963. He hails from Cape Coast in the Central Region. He had his basic education at the Methodist 'B' Primary School, Cape Coast from 1969 to 1975. He furthered his basic education at Bakatsir Methodist Middle School, Cape Coast (1975 – 1977) and Jubilee School, Cape Coast (1977-1978). After his middle school education, he attended the University Practice Secondary School (1978 - 1983) and Adisadel College, Cape Coast (1983-1985) for his G.C.E. Ordinary and Advanced Level Certificates respectively.

Hon. Ricketts-Hagan proceeded to Birkbeck College, University of London where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics in 1995 and a Master of Science Degree in Finance in 1996. He further attended the Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago, Illinois, USA from 2003 to 2005 where he was awarded a Master of Business Administration, Finance option. He also had a one-year

training in Postgraduate Studies in Diplomacy and International Relations from John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University, New Jersey, USA from 2004 to 2005.

Hon. Ricketts-Hagan is a Member of the Securities and Investment Institute (MSI), UK and UK Society of Investment Professional (UKSIP). He has held various positions in some prestigious banks in the United Kingdom including the Northern Trust Bank and Investec Bank from 1990 to 2008. He was the Executive Director and General Manager for the Strategic African Securities Group from March 2009 to August 2012. He was also the Chief Executive Officer for the World Trade Centre, Accra from August 2010 to August 2012.

In December 2012, he was elected as the Member of Parliament for the Cape Coast South Constituency in the Central Region.

Government Borrowing

Answering a question on the heavy government borrowing, the nominee acknowledged that heavy government borrowing has ripple effects on the economy. He explained that huge government borrowing can result in high interest rates and a rise in inflation.

The nominee noted that borrowing was not necessarily bad and that there were two approaches to borrowing – the old approach and new approach to borrowing. He informed the Committee that with the old approach, government borrows to undertake non-bankable projects and later looks for funds to pay back loans whereas with the new approach, the borrowing goes into bankable projects where these projects pay back the cost of investment. He noted that the new approach exerts less pressure on government and the economy.

Relationship between Interest Rates and Inflation

On the issue of single digit inflation vis-à-vis high interest rates, the nominee explained that interest rates and inflation were not moving in the same direction as expected because there are some complexities involved in the determination of interest rates. He mentioned that other factors like access to capital and default risks are also considered in the determination of interest rate. He further explained that high default risk results in bad debt and such a situation compels the commercial banks to increase their default risk premium and hence interest rates.

The nominee informed the Committee that the issue of default risk can be managed effectively by introducing comprehensive credit bureau system and collateral register to reduce interest rates.

Late Releases of Funds from the Ministry of Finance

Touching on delay in release of funds to Ministries, Departments and Agencies, the nominee asserted that proper provisions did not exist in the past to clear arrears and that accounted for the delay in the release of funds from the Ministry of Finance. He stated that the Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS), which is supposed to be a comprehensive system for managing the performance of the budget, was one of the ways of addressing the issue.

He recommended that robust and comprehensive cash management systems should be introduced as part of the financial reforms to address the challenges associated with the release of funds.

Composite Budgeting

On the issue of composite budgeting, the nominee informed the Committee that the composite budgeting links the National Budget to the budget of District Assemblies and incorporates accrual system as the basis accounting instead of cash basis of accounting. This allows liabilities to be charged against the budgets of District Assemblies. He explained that the introduction of the composite budgeting would instill fiscal discipline in the District Assemblies because it helps to capture and monitor projects of District Assemblies in the budget process and therefore enables them to focus on their core mandates.

Financing of Capital Projects

On the issue of how to finance capital projects, the nominee said that it is prudent to finance long-term projects from capital market sources so that tax revenue can be used for social interventions like building of hospitals and schools since tax revenue is limited and donor support is dwindling.

Enactment of Legislation for the Institute of Taxation

The nominee explained that Ghana needs to train more people to become tax experts to help in the mobilization of revenue considering the fiscal deficit, which is an annual phenomenon. He further explained that more people can be trained to become tax experts, if the Institute of Taxation is properly established by legislation as is the case with the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICA), Ghana and other professional bodies in Ghana.

The nominee assured the Committee of his commitment to work with the Ministry of Education in pursuing the issue of the enactment of legislation to properly establish the Institute of Taxation to enable them get the accreditation due them.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Mr. George Kweku Ricketts-Hagan as Deputy Minister for Finance.

14.0 CONCLUSION

The Appointments Committee has carried out its duty diligently in accordance with the 1992 Constitution and the Standing Orders of the House. The Committee is satisfied that the under-listed nominees have fully met the requirements of the Constitution and therefore recommend their nomination to the House for approval by consensus:

1. **Hon. (Dr.) Dominic Akuritinga Ayine - Deputy Minister-Designate for Justice and Attorney-General's Department.**
2. **Ms. Barbara Serwaa Asamoah - Deputy Minister-Designate for Lands and Natural Resources.**
3. **Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa - Deputy Minister-Designate for Education.**
4. **Mr. Felix Kwakye Ofofu - Deputy Minister-Designate for Information and Media Relations.**
5. **Hon. Cassiel Ato Baah Forson - Deputy Minister-Designate for Finance.**

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| 6. | Ambassador Thomas Kwesi Quartey | - | Deputy Minister-Designate for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration. |
| 7. | Hon. Emmanuel Kwadwo Agyekum | - | Deputy Minister-Designate for Local Government and Rural Development. |
| 8. | Hon. (Dr.) Bernice Adiku Heloo | - | Deputy Minister-Designate for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation. |
| 9. | Mrs. Joyce A. Bawah Mogtari | - | Deputy Minister-Designate for Transport. |
| 10. | Hon. George Kweku Ricketts-Hagan | - | Deputy Minister-Designate for Finance. |

Respectfully submitted.



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HON. EBO BARTON-ODRO
(FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRMAN,
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE)



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

APRIL, 2013