

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

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

**ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE  
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

*ON THE*

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

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In fulfillment of 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.) Ahmed Yakubu Alhassan** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Food and Agriculture.**
2. **Hon. Murtala Muhammed Ibrahim** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Information and Media Relations.**
3. **Hon. Edwin Nii Lantey Vanderpuye** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Trade and Industry.**
4. **Ms. Victoria Lakshmi Hamah** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Communications.**
5. **Hon. Baba Jamal Mohammed Ahmed** - **Deputy Minister-Designate Local Government and Rural Development.**
6. **Mr. John Alexander Ackon** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs.**
7. **Hon. Isaac Adjei Mensah** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Roads and Highways.**
8. **Ms. Abla Dzifa Gomashie** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts.**
9. **Mr. Antwi-Boasiako Sekyere** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Employment and Labour Relations.**
10. **Hon. (Alhaji) Bashir A. Fuseini Alhassan** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for the Northern Region.**

11. **Hon. (Mrs.) Benita Sena Okity-Duah** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Gender, Children and Social Protection.**
12. **Hon. (Dr.) Hanna Louisa Bisiw** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Food and Agriculture.**
13. **Hon. Aquinas Tawiah Quansah** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development.**
14. **Hon. (Ms.) Rachel Florence Appoh** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Gender, Children and Social Protection.**

Pursuant to 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.) AHMED YAKUBU ALHASSAN – DEPUTY MINISTER-  
DESIGNATE FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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**Background**

Hon. (Dr.) Ahmed Yakubu Alhassan was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1957 in the Yendi District of the Northern Region. He began his elementary education at the Sang Primary School in 1962 and continued at the Balogu Middle School at Yendi in the Northern Region. He proceeded to the Ghana Secondary School at Tamale in the Northern Region from 1971 to 1978 where he obtained his G.C.E. Ordinary Level and Advanced Level Certificates.

The nominee was awarded a BSc in Agriculture and Diploma in Education from the University of Cape Coast in 1982, an MPhil in Agriculture from Wye College, University of London in 1991 and a PhD in Agronomy from the Imperial College, London in 2000. Hon. Yakubu has a number of publications to his credit.

Hon. Alhassan has worked in various capacities as a Research Scientist for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and also as Member of the Governing Council of CSIR. The nominee also worked as a Part-time Lecturer at the University for Development Studies. Hon. Ahmed Alhassan Yakubu is currently the Member of Parliament for Mion Constituency and Chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs.

**Savanna Accelerated Development Authority (SADA)  
and Asongtaba Partnership**

In answer to a question on the partnership between SADA and Asongtaba Cottage Industries Limited (ACI), the nominee noted that the mandate of SADA was to facilitate and coordinate

the implementation of programmes to create jobs and help reduce poverty within its operational zone. According to the nominee SADA partnered ACI in the guinea fowl project because of the latter's track record in commercial guinea fowl rearing. The nominee explained that in addition to the production and sale of guinea fowls, the partnership company would also support satellite farmers produce fowls for sale to the company. He noted that the guinea fowl project was seeking to introduce new technologies in the production of guinea fowls. According to the nominee, the partnership is backed by the law establishing SADA and that the Authority is a minority shareholder (40%) in the new company

### **Marketing of Agricultural Product**

The nominee stated that the country's focus had always been on increasing food and livestock production to the neglect of marketing the products. He however observed that the Ministry of Food and Agricultural has now realigned its focus for the agricultural sector to include the whole value chain within the sector. He also recognised strategies put in place to respond to the glut often experienced during bumper harvest in the agricultural sector.

He stated that the establishment of the National Buffer Stock Company by Government is to store grains produced by the country to guarantee stable prices for agricultural produce and to ensure food security. According to the nominee markets built within the country should be equipped with modern storage facilities and other facilities to enable market women store their produce to prevent wastage.

### **Irrigation Development**

The nominee informed the Committee that, presently land under irrigation in the country is about 0.1%, which is about 40,000 hectares. He acknowledged that the performance of the country in irrigation was not good enough. He however expressed satisfaction with Government's renewed interest to put irrigation development at the centre of its agenda. He mentioned that Government plans to increase irrigable land from the current 40,000 hectares to 500,000 hectares. He was of the view that expanding irrigation systems within the country

would help boost food production and also ensure that farming is undertaken throughout the year.

### **Genetically Modified Organisms**

On the issue of the of introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms in the country, the nominee informed the Committee that he would advise the sector Minister on the need to adopt such a technology in our quest to achieve food security for the country. According to Hon. Alhassan, this is a cutting edge technology whereby the DNA's of food crops and animals are modified through genetic engineering techniques for faster growth, resistance to pathogens, production of extra nutrients or any other beneficial purpose.

He backed his position on the introduction of GMO's into the country because the country has enough scientists trained in the field of Genetics, a very good legal and regulatory framework as expressed in the Biosafety Act and Regulations and other legislations. He therefore downplayed the assertion by critics who opposed GMO's on the grounds of safety as they are unfounded.

### **Performance of Agricultural Sector of the Economy**

On the issue of poor performance of the agricultural sector, the nominee admitted that the sector had not performed well for some time. He attributed the poor performance to a myriad of factors including reliance on rainfall. The nominee noted that even though the cocoa and crop sub-sectors witnessed some growth over the years, the abysmal performance of the Forestry and Logging sub-Sector was very significant that this affected the overall performance of the Agricultural Sector to Ghana's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

He therefore remarked that the abysmal performance of the Sector should not be politicised, but rather all stakeholders to the sector should disaggregate the various subsectors of the Industry and do a proper diagnosis on the various components to identify the challenges and offer solutions so that the overall agricultural sector can contribute significantly to the country's GDP.

### **Smuggling of Fertilizers**

The nominee informed the Committee that Government in its quest to boost agricultural productivity in country introduced a subsidy on fertilizers to enable farmers afford the product. Unfortunately some farmers and officers of the Ministry were abusing this well-intended policy of Government by smuggling the product to neighbouring countries. He lauded the former Minister for Food and Agriculture for introducing measures to curb the menace and assured the Committee that he would support the sector Minister to further strengthen those measures and to introduce new ones.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Hon. (Dr.) Ahmed Yakubu Alhassan as Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture.

## **5.0 HON. MURTALA MUHAMMED IBRAHIM – DEPUTY MINISTER- DESIGNATE FOR INFORMATION AND MEDIA RELATIONS**

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### **Background**

Hon. Murtala Mohammed Ibrahim was born on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1974 at Tamale in the Northern Region. He had his Basic and Secondary Schools education at the Tamale Methodist Primary and Junior Secondary School and Ghana Secondary School respectively. Hon. Murtala Mohammed Ibrahim proceeded to Tamale Teachers Training College from 1996-1999 and University of Ghana from 2000-2003 where he was awarded Certificate “A” and Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology respectively. The nominee was also awarded an MSc. Degree in Development Planning from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in 2008 and a Master of Arts Degree in International Relations from the University of Ghana, in 2011.

Hon. Murtala Mohammed Ibrahim has attended several seminars and training programmes both local and outside the country on important topics such as “The Renaissance of the African Youth and Development”, Tripoli, Libya, 2005; “Conflict Resolution in Africa: The Role of the Youth” Khartoum, Sudan, 2005; and Pan African Youth Summit on Democratic Development in Africa, Nigeria, 2008.

The nominee is currently the Member of Parliament for Nanton constituency.

### **Media Development Fund**

On the nominee’s assessment of the introduction of the Media Development Fund, he indicated that it was a laudable initiative since it would enhance Ghana’s democracy by strengthening the capacity of the media to carry out its watchdog functions more effectively and efficiently. He however conceded that there were some complaints about the distribution of the laptops which in his opinion did not make the Fund irrelevant since the complaints can be easily streamlined to avoid such future occurrences.

### **Alleged Corruption at GYEEDA**

On the issue of alleged corruption at GYEEDA, the nominee informed the Committee that when the attention of the Authority was drawn to the allegation by the media, the National Coordinator of the Authority immediately constituted a Committee to investigate the matter. He noted that in line with the vision of His Excellency the former President, there was no way such an allegation could be swept under the carpet. He said following from the findings of both the Committee established by the National Coordinator and the National Security Council, Management interdicted some of the officials involved in the alleged act of corruption and others were made to refund monies misappropriated from the coffers of the GYEEDA. He was hopeful that the work of the Committee set-up by the current Minister for Youth and Sports would bring the matter to a closure.



The nominee told the Committee that notwithstanding the allegation, GYEEDA was a viable programme, which is providing jobs to the teeming youth of this country. He said the programme had been adjudged the best Youth Employment Programme globally, which boosted donor confidence leading to a pledge of funding from the World Bank to support the programme.

### **Election of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs)**

The nominee stated that he agrees with the recommendations of the Constitutional Review Commission on the election of MMDCEs after having been vetted by the Public Services Commission. He further stated that the recommendation would make the MMDCEs accountable more to the people than the President. He however noted that a concern of the people was the security arrangement at the District level where the MMDCEs act as chairpersons of the District Security Councils. According to the nominee, there was a perceived security threat in cases where the Chief Executive and the sitting President belonged to different political affiliations.

### **Information Ministry being perceived as a Propaganda Ministry**

Touching on the assertion that the Ministry of Information and Media Relations was a propaganda outlet of the Government, the nominee debunked the claim and indicated that perhaps the impression could be due to the propaganda office within the National Democratic Congress. He was of the belief that the said impression had changed over the past four years. He assured the Committee that if given the nod he would support his Minister to demystify such perceptions surrounding the Ministry.

### **Government Communication Team**

Commenting on whether there was the need for a Government communication team with the view that the Ministry of Information and Media Relations exists to perform such functions, the nominee stated that in view of the wide outlet of media across the country, it was

imperative that Government reaches out in the process of disseminating information. He indicated that the challenge with the arrangement was the inability of the team to sometimes draw the distinction between Party issues and those of the Government. He assured the Committee that with the current arrangement there would be proper coordination to avoid duplication of functions.

### **Addition of Media Relations to the Information Ministry**

The nominee noted that it was significant the Media Relations function was added to the Ministry of Information because of the need to relay Government information to the media on a daily basis. On how the Media Relations can be handled at the regional and district levels, the nominee indicated that he would assist his Minister to encourage the use of information vans to disseminate information at the local level.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Hon. Murtala Mohammed Ibrahim as Deputy Minister for Information and Media Relations.

## **6.0 HON. EDWIN NII LANTEY VANDERPUYE – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

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### **Background**

Hon. Edwin Nii Lantey Vanderpuye was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, 1965. He attended the Presbyterian Secondary School, Bechem where he obtained his G.C.E. Ordinary Level Certificate 1983 and the Mfantshipim School, Cape Coast for his G.C.E. Advanced Level Certificate in 1985. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Degree from the University of Ghana, Legon in 1989 and a Diploma in Journalism from the Ghana Institute of Journalism in 1997. He was awarded a Masters' Degree in Governance and Leadership from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration in 2012.

Hon. Vanderpuye has held a number of positions including Sports Presenter and Commentator of the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation from 1990 to 2001 and Head of Production and Administration of the Outdoor Broadcasting Department, Ghana Broadcasting Corporation from 2002 to 2004. He was also an Assembly Member for the Korle Wonko Electoral Area from 1994 to 1998.

Hon. Vanderpuye is currently the Member of Parliament for the Odododiodioo Constituency in the Greater Accra Region.

### **Domestic Trade**

As to what could be done to boost domestic trade in Ghana, the nominee stated that trading demands a lot of capital and other resources. He agreed that intra-trade within the Regions of Ghana is bedeviled with several setbacks. He partly attributed the problems of domestic trade to the inappropriate nature of the country's markets which he said were prone to fire outbreaks. He advocated a collaboration between the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and the various Metropolitan, Municipal and Districts Assemblies to totally rebuild the major markets in the country.

### **Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA)**

According to Hon. Vanderpuye, the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) that has been proposed by the European Union, offers African countries the opportunity to access the European market. In his personal assessment however, the EPA could be favourable in the short-term but may be detrimental to African countries in the long-term. In his opinion, the EPA could end up turning African countries into dumping grounds for European products.

### **Industrialisation of the Northern Part of Ghana**

Commenting on the industrialisation of the Northern part of the country, the nominee informed the Committee that there are vast lands in the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) zone which could be utilised for mechanised agriculture and agro-

processing. He emphasised the need to revamp the energy, water supply and other infrastructure in the Northern part of the country. This will eventually promote the establishment of agro industries in that part of the country. This can also lead to the creation of jobs and improved income levels.

### **Textile Industry**

Hon. Vanderpuye stated that historically, Ghanaian textiles have proven to be of the best quality. He mentioned the Tema Textile Limited, Akosombo Textile Limited and Juapong Textile Limited as some of the companies that produced good quality textiles in Ghana.

He promised to advise the substantive Minister to take steps to revamp the textile industry in Ghana to enable the industry regain its former glory.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Hon. Edwin Nii Lantey Vanderpuye as Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry.

## **7.0 MS. VICTORIA LAKSHMI HAMAH – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS**

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### **Background**

Ms. Victoria Lakshmi Hamah was born on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1981 at Tema in the Greater Accra Region and hails from Kintampo in the Brong Ahafo Region. She had her basic education at St. Paul's Methodist Primary and Junior High Schools in Tema from 1987 to 1996. She attended Tema Senior Secondary School from 1997 to 1999. She was awarded a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Degree in Political Science with Philosophy at the University of Ghana, Legon in 2005.

Ms. Hamah was a Co-Host and Co-Content Producer at TV3 Limited from 2009 to 2010. She also worked as a TV Hostess at Multimedia Company Limited from August 2010 to December 2012. She has been the National Coordinator for the Progressive Organisation for Women's Advancement (POWA) from February 2007 to date.

### **Cyber Fraud ("Sakawa")**

Commenting on measures to help address the menace of cyber fraud, the nominee stated that it was a global concern which demands a global solution. She indicated that if terrorists could attack an advanced country such as the United States of America through the means of advanced Information and Communication Technology then there is the need for cooperation among all countries to help tackle the menace.

She recommended the fusing of technology and security platforms of countries as a measure to curb cyber fraud since the use of the internet goes beyond borders. She further called for the introduction of electronic signatures as a security measure to help in identifying users of the internet.

### **Ghana Post Company**

The nominee stated that Ghana Post Company seems to be experiencing lower patronage due to the upsurge of ICT drive in the country and cited the internet as an example. She explained that the influx of computers, hand-held communication devices such as mobile phones and ipads as well as other ICT devices have contributed to the situation to a large extent. She also attributed the situation to the springing up of other postal and courier services.

She informed the Committee that despite the challenges confronting Ghana Post Company, it still has an advantage especially with regard to parcel delivery services because such items cannot be sent via electronic mail. She added that there are about two hundred and thirty

(230) Post Offices across the country. She was therefore of the opinion that with the infrastructure base of Ghana Post Company, it would be competitive if electronic commerce and other online services were made part of its operations.

The nominee assured the Committee that she would work assiduously to support the Minister for Communications to transform the Ghana Post Company.

### **Services of Telecommunication Companies**

Commenting on the services provided by telecommunication companies, the nominee stated that the services of telecommunication companies do not meet the expectation of Ghanaians. According to the nominee there are complaints of call congestions, poor signals and misdirection of calls by most people. She explained that the country is confronted with such challenges largely because most telecommunication companies operate beyond their allowed bundle limits.

She assured the Committee of her commitment to assist the Minister to ensure that existing legislations meant for regulating the activities of telecommunication companies are enforced and new ones enacted to make them more effective and efficient.

### **Migration from Analogue to Digital Technology**

Sharing her views on the need for the country to migrate from analogue to digital broadcasting, the nominee stated that in year 2006 Ghana ratified the Geneva Convention which entreats all nations to migrate from analogue to digital technology by 2016. Ms. Hamah further explained that though this comes at a cost, Ghana must comply with the provisions of the Convention it has ratified. She indicated that some benefits of digital migration would be to ensure a high quality transmission of pictures and sounds as well as a higher spectrum bandwidth.

## **Radio Transmission**

On the issue of radio stations transmitting beyond their licensed geographical areas, Ms. Hamah stated that such violations undermine the growth of community radio stations in those catchment areas. The nominee informed the Committee that she would support the substantive Minister to liaise with the National Communications Authority and the National Media Commission to address the issue.

## **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Ms. Victoria Lakshmi Hamah as Deputy Minister for Communications.

## **8.0 HON. BABA JAMAL MOHAMMED AHMED – DEPUTY MINISTER- DESIGNATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Background**

Hon. Baba Jamal Mohammed Ahmed was born on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1969 at Akwatia in the Eastern Region. He had his primary education at the Akwatia Roman Catholic Primary School and obtained a Middle School Leaving Certificate at the same School in 1982. He attended Labone Secondary School in Accra and obtained a G.C.E. Ordinary Level Certificate in 1989 and Boa Amponsem Secondary School in Dunkwa where he obtained a G.C.E. Advanced Level Certificate in 1991.

Hon. Baba Jamal Ahmed attended the University of Ghana, Legon and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Degree in Arabic and Political Science in 1997. He also obtained an MPhil Degree in Political Science and International Politics in 2006 from the same University.

Hon. Ahmed served as the Deputy Minister for the Eastern Region from 2009 to 2011. He was also the Deputy Minister for Information from 2011 to 2012 and later as the Deputy

Minister for Tourism from 2012 to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2013. He also served as the Chairman of the Committee on Communication Strategy for the Ghana Boundaries Commission.

The nominee is currently the Member of Parliament for the Akwatia Constituency.

### **Election of Assembly Members**

Responding to a question on whether election of Assembly Members should be done on partisan basis, the nominee referred to a Paper he delivered at a workshop organised by the Institute of Economic Affairs in 2005 entitled "Political Parties and District Assemblies: Should the Divorce Continue?". He stated that the status quo where members of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) are elected on non-partisan basis is in order and must be maintained. He indicated that Political Parties should not be allowed to participate in the activities of MMDAs. According to him, if the current arrangement is maintained, Assemblies would continue to operate independently of Political Parties and this would help accelerate the pace of development in the country.

### **State Funding of Political Parties**

In response to a question as to whether he supports State funding of Political Parties, the nominee stated that Political Parties currently receive funding from the State in the form of access to broadcasting services and vehicles provided by the Electoral Commission. He stated that due to funding challenges, Political Parties find it difficult developing the necessary Party structures to enable them perform effectively and efficiently. Further, Political Parties are unable to pay salaries or allowances to Party officials to enable them work on full time basis. He was of the view that State funding of Political Parties would greatly deepen Ghana's democracy and eliminate the tendencies of Political Parties seeking funding from illegal sources.

In the light of the above, the nominee endorsed the proposal for State funding of Political Parties in the country. He however cautioned that the funding should be properly coordinated to prevent mushrooming of Political Parties. He also recommended that Political Parties



should consider venturing into commercial activities to generate income to become self-reliant.

### **Creation of New Districts**

On the issue of creating new Districts to deepen decentralisation in the country, the nominee indicated that he is aware that many communities have applied to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development for their areas to be accorded District status to quicken the pace of development. The nominee was of the opinion that calls for a limit to the creation of new Districts should be done with circumspection and proposed that the whole exercise be put on hold temporarily to enable the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development undertake a proper analysis of the situation.

He was however not happy about the creation of some of the new Districts without the commensurate infrastructure as some of them operate from rented premises. Hon. Ahmed informed the Committee that he would assist the Sector Minister to develop guidelines and strategies to regulate the creation of new Districts.

### **Funding of Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs)**

The nominee informed the Committee that Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) are an integral part of the country's decentralisation process. Unfortunately, they have been underfunded for a considerable period of time. He therefore commended Government for increasing the budgetary allocation of the various RCCs to enable them perform effectively and efficiently to deepen the decentralisation process of the country.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Hon. Baba Jamal Mohammed Ahmed as Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development.

## **9.0 MR. JOHN ALEXANDER ACKON – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR CHIEFTAINCY AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**

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### **Background**

Mr. John Alexander Ackon was born on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 1958 at Obuasi Adansi in the Ashanti Region. He had his primary and middle school education at St. Thomas Primary & Middle School in Obuasi and obtained his G.C.E Ordinary level certificate at Obuasi Secondary Technical School in 1977. Mr. Ackon holds a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and is a Member of the Ghana Institution of Engineers.

Mr. Ackon worked with a number of organisations including the Anglogold Ashanti Ltd and former Achimota Breweries Ltd. The nominee is currently the Municipal Chief Executive of the Obuasi Municipal Assembly.

### **Basic Education Certificate Examinations (BECE) Achievement in Obuasi**

The nominee indicated that the excellence achieved by the Obuasi Municipal Assembly in the recent BECE results was due to the collective efforts of teachers, parents and students. He further attributed the success to the organisation of mock exams for all the schools in the municipality and the invitation of external examiners to mark and grade the examination scripts. In addition, the Assembly introduced a teachers' award scheme to motivate teachers in the municipality.

### **Increase in Allowances to Chiefs**

In responding to a question on what he thinks about increasing the allowances paid to chiefs, the nominee said he supports the upward adjustment of the allowances and that Government had already agreed to adjust the said allowance. He further assured the Committee that he would work to complement the efforts of the substantive Minister.

### **Prioritise Approach of Culture**

The nominee in responding to how Ghana could prioritize the approach to culture said, one thing peculiar to Ghana is our culture. He said certain ruminates of our tradition such as widowhood rites and female circumcision among others need to be worked on.

### **Challenges of Obuasi**

The nominee agreed to a suggestion that even though Obuasi is endowed with natural resources it is also bedeviled with a number of challenges. He noted that the mines were established in 1897 when there were no civil society organisations. The operations of the mines were basically centralised with estates and other auxiliary services being provided by the miners themselves and there was no private sector involvement in developing the area. He indicated that with the introduction of new concepts the image of the town would be enhanced and he assured that the entire township would have a comprehensive phase lift.

### **Role of Chiefs in Community Development**

The nominee agreed to the view that chiefs are central in the development of their communities. He noted that chiefs were rallying points for the mobilisation of the collective efforts of their subjects for the development of their respective communities.

He added that festivals should be a point of galvanising support for development. Citing the Manhyia Palace Museum as an example, the nominee urged other Chiefs to emulate this feat in codifying our history and ensure that it is preserved for posterity.

### **Codifying Lines of Succession in Chieftaincy**

The nominee supported the view that lines of chieftaincy succession should be codified and complied with by all. It was the nominee's belief that the codification of the genealogy of succession lines for Stools and Skins would go a long way to help minimise chieftaincy disputes in the country.

## **Honorary Chieftaincy Titles**

In response to a question on Honorary chieftaincy titles, the nominee stated that chieftaincy is a dignified institution and one must be qualified to go into it and if honored must be deserving of it. The nominee said he would support any policy in this regard to ensure that the dignities of the titles given are both legitimate and deserving.

## **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Mr. John Alexander Ackon as Deputy Minister for Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs.

## **10.0 HON. ISAAC ADJEI MENSAH – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR ROADS AND HIGHWAYS**

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### **Background**

Hon. Isaac Adjei Mensah was born on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1963 at Dompim Number 1 in the Western Region. He completed his primary education at the Dompim Number 1 L/A Primary School in 1974 and completed Annto/Abosso L/A Middle School in 1978. He obtained his Ordinary Level Certificate from Amenfiman Secondary School, Wassa Akrong in 1983 and his Advanced Level Certificate from Aggrey Memorial Zion Secondary School in 1985. He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Degree in Sociology/Political Science from the University of Ghana, Legon in 1991 and an MPhil in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Tromso, Norway in 1997.

Hon. Adjei Mensah was an Administrative Assistant at the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR) Secretariat/Western Regional Coordinating Council from 1985 to 1988. He also worked at the Council for his National Service as an Administrative Secretary from 1991 to 1992. From 1998 to 1999, he was a Personnel and Industrial Relations Officer at Abosso Goldfields Limited and from 1999 to 2002 he was the Human Resources and

Community Relations Manager at Satellite Goldfields Limited (now Golden Star Resources Akyempim). The nominee was the Human Resources and Administration Manager at the Bogoso Gold Limited/Golden Star Resources from June 2002 to 2005 and moved to Golden Ridge Resources Limited, Akyem from 2006 to 2007 as the Human Resources Manager. He was also the Human Resources Manager of Newmont Ghana Gold Limited, Ahafo from 2007 to 2008. From 2008 to 2012 he was the Regional Human Resources Manager of Newmont Ghana Gold Limited. He was also the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Newmont Employees' Provident Fund Scheme from 2010 to 2012.

Hon. Adjei Mensah is currently the Member of Parliament for Wassa East Constituency.

### **Uncompleted Roads Projects**

In response to a question as to what he would do to ensure that uncompleted road projects are completed before new ones are awarded, the nominee informed the Committee that in consultation with the substantive Minister, he would task the Technocrats at the Ministry to furnish him with a holistic database on all uncompleted road projects in the country and ensure that the contractors are enjoined to complete them according to schedule.

### **The Road Fund**

According to the nominee, Road Funds are established to cater for routine maintenance works on roads among others. He indicated that he is aware that some Districts in the country do not benefit from the Fund and stressed the need for the usage of the Fund to be decentralised. He added that he would also advise the Sector Minister to initiate legislation for the decentralisation of the Fund.

### **Alternative Funding for the Construction of Major Roads in the Country**

Hon. Isaac Adjei Mensah, bemoaned the over-reliance on donor resources for the construction of major roads in the country and proposed the use of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) as a vehicle to accelerate the construction of roads. In his opinion, PPPs would help

provide the needed road infrastructure whilst lessening the burden of such projects on the nation's debt portfolio.

### **Urban and Feeder Road Projects**

In response to a question as to whether he supports the assertion that a greater percentage of funds accruing to the Ministry of Roads and Highways are earmarked for the construction of Urban Roads to the detriment of Feeder Roads, the nominee responded in the affirmative. He indicated that Feeder Roads are equally important as Urban Roads in view of the fact that foodstuffs and other commodities from rural communities to the urban centres are transported on Feeder Roads. The deplorable conditions of most of these roads results in delay in the conveyance of foodstuffs to the urban centres thereby increasing the cost of transportation.

He further stated that in consultation with the Minister and relevant stakeholders, he would propose a formula for the equitable disbursement of funds towards the construction of both Urban and Feeder Roads.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Hon. Isaac Adjei Mensah as Deputy Minister for Roads and Highways.

## **11.0 MS. ABLA DZIFA GOMASHIE – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR TOURISM, CULTURE AND CREATIVE ARTS'**

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### **Background**

Ms. Abla Dzifa Gomashie was born on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1967 in Accra in the Greater Region. She attended St. Louis Secondary School in Kumasi between 1979 and 1985 for her G.C. E. Ordinary Level Certificate and Snapps College in Accra between 1992 and 1994 for her G.C. E. Advanced Level Certificate. Ms. Gomashie attended the University of Ghana, Legon

where she was awarded a Diploma in Theater Arts (1994 to 1998), a Bachelor of Fine Arts (2000 to 2003) and a Master in Philosophy in African Studies between 2005 and 2008.

Ms. Gomashie had a successful career beginning as a Performer with the Talent Theatre Company between 1986 and 1989. She later joined the National Theatre of Ghana as a Performer with the Abibigromma Group from 1992 to 2003. The nominee has worked in the creative arts industry for nearly two decades and has produced and directed many Ghanaian television programmes.

She also worked at the National Commission on Culture as a Senior Performer between 1998 and 2003 before assuming the position of Producer/Director/Narrator of a popular Television Series "By the Fire Side" from 1992 to 2003. She has been the Director of Mama Dzifa's Kitchen from 2007 to date and the Chief Executive Officer of Value for Life a Non-Governmental Organisation from 2009 to date. Ms. Gomashie is currently a Television Host and a Judge of children's television programmes.

### **Obscenity in Local Movies**

Responding to a question on the effect of obscenity in local movies on the youth, the nominee agreed that it has a negative impact on the lifestyle of the youth. She stated that the industry is currently facing some challenges and blamed the situation on actors and producers who do not have the requisite skills. The nominee advised all players in the movie industry to seek proper training and to ensure that the content of movies produced reflect the values and norms of the Ghanaian society.

She also blamed the influx of foreign telenovels/movies on television stations in the country and called for the need to edit these movies to make them culturally acceptable. She further proposed the re-introduction of cultural studies into the educational curricula to educate the youth on the traditions, values and norms of the Ghanaian society.

She promised to work with the substantive Minister to hold consultative meetings with the players in the industry to deliberate on the issue.

### **Government Support to the Creative Art Industry**

On what she intends to do to ensure that government's support to the creative arts is extended to all sectors of the industry, Ms. Gomashie informed the Committee that in year 2012, Government provided some financial support to the industry which was limited to the musical sector only. According to the nominee, this created some discontent among other sectors of the industry.

She further informed the Committee that Government has made provision for the Creative Art Industry under the 2013 Budget. She assured the Committee of her preparedness to work in consultation with the Sector Minister and players in the industry to ensure that all sectors of the industry benefit from the allocation.

### **Promoting Culture and Tourism**

Commenting on how creative arts could be used to promote culture and tourism in the country, the nominee advocated for the promotion of tourism and culture at the community level. The nominee indicated that the community based tourism and culture initiative is less expensive compared to rolling out a national advocacy programme.

She cited the Community Water and Sanitation Programme (CWSP) as an example. She indicated that the community based tourism and culture initiative could be fashioned along the line of CWSP to promote culture at the district and community levels. According to the nominee, through this initiative, people would be encouraged to appreciate the relevance of culture and patronise cultural activities.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Ms. Ablu Dzifa Gomashie as Deputy Minister for Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts.



## 12.0 MR. ANTWI-BOSIAKO SEKYERE – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR RELATIONS

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### Background

Mr. Antwi-Boasiako Sekyere was born on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1953 at Effiduase, Koforidua in the Eastern Region. He hails from Effiduase, Koforidua and Mamfe Akuapem all in the Eastern Region. He had his Basic Education at Mamfe Presbyterian Primary School (1958 – 1964) and Anglican Boys Middle School, Koforidua from 1964 to 1968. He attended Pope John Secondary School, Koforidua (1968 – 1973) and Nsien Secondary School, Axim (1973-1975) for his Ordinary and Advanced Level Certificates respectively.

Mr. Sekyere furthered his education at the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Geography in 1979. He also pursued a Professional Taxation course at the Internal Revenue Service Tax Institute, Ghana (1985-1986). He holds a Master of Science Degree in Human Resource Development and a Master of Philosophy in International Development all awarded by the University of Manchester in 1999 and 2001 respectively. In 2003, he obtained a Post-Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Development at the University of Salford.

Mr. Antwi-Boasiako Sekyere worked with the Internal Revenue Service of Ghana as Inspector of Taxes from 1985 to 1992 and was the Eastern Regional Organising Assistant of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR) from 1988 to 1993. He was a Planning Analyst at the National Development Planning Commission, Ghana from 1997 to 1998. He was the Assessor for National Vocation Qualification (NVQ) Levels 3&4 in Advice and Guidance at the Manchester College of Arts and Technology from 2004 to 2006 and later appointed as a Lecturer in Advice and Guidance in the same Institution from September 2006 to January 2007.

He served as the Deputy Eastern Regional Minister from 1993 to 1997 and again as the Deputy Minister for Employment and Social Welfare from April 2009 to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

## **The Single Spine Pay Policy**

The nominee admitted that some people had lambasted the late President J.E.A. Mills and himself because they were accused of heightening the expectations of public sector workers with the implementation of the Single Spine Pay Policy (SSPP). He described the situation as unfortunate since the SSPP was inherited by the current Government in 2009 and stated categorically that no policy of Government was devoid of implementation challenges. He informed the Committee that Former President J.A. Kuffour before handing-over Office attempted to increase the salaries of public sector workers by 36% as part of the implementation of the SSPP but Organised Labour rejected it because it was imposed and not negotiated.

He informed the Committee that the current Government forestalled similar challenges encountered by the previous Government and so organised a stakeholder forum for the leaders of all public sector workers in May 2009 to fashion out a road map to address the issue of the implementation of the SSPP. A road map was developed through deliberations after which the Government issued a "White Paper" on the implementation of the SSPP. According to the nominee, the White Paper stated among others that the implementation of the SSPP would be done in phases spanning a period of five years. He added that the SSPP is aimed at ensuring equity and fairness since it has to do with equal pay for equal value of job.

The nominee said that the Policy had been successful since 99.7% of public sector workers have been migrated onto the Policy and that none have opted out so far.

## **Labour Agitations**

Touching on labour agitations, Mr. Sekyere described the recent strike action by Doctors and other essential service providers in the country as regrettable. He said that the Doctors were on strike because they wanted their 2012 market premium paid to them in lump-sum whilst the Government wanted to stagger it in three installments. He said the situation was very difficult for Government to address because Organised Labour did not follow due process. He

made reference to the Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651) which in part stipulates that essential service providers are not supposed to go on strike. The nominee referred to the Labour Law again and said that all parties should conduct themselves in such a way that there can be serenity in labour relations since there was fair representation by Organised Labour on the National Labour Commission (NLC).

According to the nominee, because of the fair representation on the NLC, he was of the opinion that Organised Labour should rather sharpen their negotiation skills and follow due process in order to meet their expectations since under the implementation of the SSPP, salary increments cannot be addressed through strike actions. He commended the NLC for accepting the Government's decision to make payments in installments and congratulated the Trade Union Congress for calling on Organised Labour to play by the rules of industrial relations to ensure serenity in the labour front.

The nominee underscored the need to educate all stakeholders, especially leaders of Organised Labour through workshops and seminars for them to appreciate industrial relations to avert industrial unrests in the country.

### **Casual Workers**

The nominee condemned the phenomenon whereby some unscrupulous employers exploit casual workers by engaging them for five months and two weeks and later laying them off only for the same people to be re-engaged as casual workers. He informed the Committee that such practices ought to be identified by the Labour Department of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations.

He assured the Committee that he would work diligently to assist the Sector Minister to put in place measures to address this phenomenon.

### **Working Conditions of Ghanaian Workers**

The nominee bemoaned the unfortunate poor conditions under which some Ghanaian work. He noted that these had resulted in rampant accidents at some work places. The nominee described the Factories, Offices and Shops Act of 1970 (Act 328) as obsolete and therefore not effective in dealing with contemporary issues on employee safety. The nominee indicated that despite the inefficacy of the law in addressing safety concerns, the Inspectorate Division of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations had been embarking on routine visits to these work places and had made various recommendations to reduce work place hazards.

The nominee informed the Committee that a draft Bill aimed at addressing safety concerns had been submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

### **Mandate of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations**

Commenting on the core mandate of the re-designated Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, the nominee informed the Committee that the new designation would empower the Ministry to regulate the activities of employers and organised labour. He also noted that, the Ministry now has the responsibility to ensure that labour relations conform to labour legislations and International Conventions, track unemployment and provide labour statistics for policy making.

He stated that the Ministry has the mandate to provide the requisite mix of skills, knowledge and aptitude of human resources and determine the human resource needs of the country.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Mr. Antwi-Bosiako Sekyere as Deputy Minister for Employment and Labour Relations.

### **13.0 HON. (ALHAJI) BASHIR A. FUSEINI ALHASSAN – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR THE NORTHERN REGION**

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#### **Background**

Hon. (Alhaji) Bashir A. Fuseini Alhassan was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 1956 in Tamale in the Northern Region. He had his basic education at the Tishigu Anglican Primary School, Tamale from 1963 to 1970 and continued to the Kalpohin Middle School from 1970 to 1973. The nominee attended Yendi Secondary School, Yendi in the Northern Region from 1973 to 1978 where he obtained his G.C.E. Ordinary Level Certificate and T. I. Ahmadiyya Secondary School in Kumasi from 1978 to 1980 where he obtained his G.C.E. Advanced Level Certificate. Hon. Alhassan was awarded Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Degree in Political Science with Geography from the University of Ghana, Legon in 1985 and a Diploma in Journalism from the International Institute of Journalism in Germany in 1988. The Hon. Nominee also holds a Master of Arts Degree in Human Rights from the Essex University at Colchester in England.

Hon. Alhassan has worked in various capacities as a media practitioner. He was the Staff Writer at the News Desk of the Ghanaian Times between 1985 and 1986. The nominee also worked as the Assistant Editor, the Deputy News Editor, the Foreign Editor and Night Editor of the Daily Graphic. He was later appointed the News Editor of the Daily Graphic from 2007 to 2012. The nominee was appointed the Chairman of the Governing Council of the Ghana Institute of Journalism in the year 2009, Member of the Governing Board of Ghana Publishing Company and also Member of the Governing Council of the Tamale Polytechnic.

The nominee is currently the Member of Parliament for the Sagnarigu Constituency in the Northern Region of Ghana.

#### **Views on his Nomination**

In response to a question about the ideas he would bring on board to help develop the Northern Region, the nominee indicated that his role is to assist the Regional Minister to

execute the vision of the President for the Region. He informed the Committee that his nomination was a good opportunity to serve his people. He assured the Committee that, if given the nod, he would render dedicated and committed service to the people in order to realise the vision of the President for the Region.

### **Reconciling the People of the North for Development**

On a question about his plans to reconcile the people in the Region, the nominee indicated he could not espouse any ideas as his role would be to assist the Regional Minister to reconcile the ethnically diverse Region, which is prone to conflicts. For instance, he cited the Dagbon crisis as one of the most disturbing developments in the Region, which had further deepened poverty and underdevelopment within the Region. He appealed to the people of Dagbon to put this unfortunate development behind them and to see themselves as Dagombas who have resolved to fight a common enemy – poverty and underdevelopment. He promised to work with all ethnic groups in the Region to ensure peace and development.

He informed the Committee that he had very good working relationship with the Regional Minister in past and was optimistic that this bond would enable them pursue the vision of the President in the Region.

### **Appointment of Regional Ministers from Outside the Regions**

In response to a question on the appointment of Regional Ministers from outside their home Regions, the nominee used the opportunity to congratulate the President for taking such a bold step. He alluded to the fact that the country's unity and stability after independence was largely attributed to this strategy adopted by Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. He recounted that Regional Ministers who worked outside their home regions achieved tremendous success for Nkrumah's administration. He informed the Committee that the exercise was therefore a step in the right direction and should be emulated by future governments.

He also debunked concerns that the exercise would allow Deputy Ministers who have knowledge of their home Regions to use that opportunity to undermine their respective

substantive Ministers. He was of the opinion that, by helping their Regional Ministers to succeed, the Deputy Ministers would be boosting their own political fortunes. He accordingly promised to fully complement the efforts of the Regional Minister to succeed.

### **Savannah Accelerated Development Authority**

In response to a question on how he would assist the Northern Regional Minister to make the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) succeed, the nominee recalled that SADA was a creation of Parliament initiated by the NDC to address poverty and underdevelopment in the three Northern Regions, the savannah zones of the Brong Ahafo and Volta Regions.

According to the nominee, the poverty and underdevelopment levels of the savannah zones especially the three Northern Regions was attributable to the deliberate colonial policy to make these areas sources of labour for the cocoa farms and mines in the south. He indicated that conflicts and other natural disasters had also contributed to the poverty and underdevelopment of the area.

The nominee therefore commended Government for initiating the creation of SADA to serve as a vehicle to address poverty and underdevelopment through interventions such as afforestation, guinea fowl farming, tractor services and distribution of fertilizers and seeds to farmers in these areas. He therefore assured the Committee that he would assiduously work hard to assist the Regional Minister to ensure that the Authority succeeds to deliver on its mandate.

### **Managing the Expectation of the People of the Northern Region**

The nominee indicated that, it was indeed historic that for the first time in the history of the country, the Northern Region has produced a President. He informed the Committee that he was therefore not surprised that people from the Region have high expectations from the President in terms of development projects and other amenities. Hon. Alhassan acknowledged the President's passion to address the poverty and underdevelopment situation in the three

Northern Regions, but however reminded people of the Region that the President was elected to serve the whole nation without discrimination. He therefore urged the people of the North to tie the fortunes of the Region to hard work whiles Government initiates poverty reduction programmes to eradicate poverty in the area.

### **Economic Development of the North and its Image**

Hon. Alhassan informed the Committee that the Northern Region abounds in mineral resources such as iron ore, gold, limestone and arable land for agriculture. According to the nominee, the “Operation Feed Your Self” Policy in the 1970s witnessed increased rice production in the Region which provided a lot of jobs for the people of the area. Unfortunately this policy could not be sustained, which led to job losses and coupled with other factors worsened the economic fortunes of the North and the resultant migration of many young people to the South in search of non-existent jobs. In his view many of these young people live in appalling conditions and had dented the image of Region and its people. He therefore assured the Committee of his determination to assist the Minister to rebrand the Region in order to attract the necessary investments in order to reverse this negative trend.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Hon. (Alhaji) Bashir A. Fuseini Alhassan as Deputy Minister for the Northern Region.

## **14.0 HON. (MRS.) BENITA SENA OKITY-DUAH – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

### **Background**

Hon. Benita Sena Okity-Duah was born on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 1976 at Teshie, Accra. She attended Kotoka Primary School from 1980-1998. Hon. Okity-Duah obtained her Ordinary Level Certificate from Achimota Secondary School in 1993 and her Advanced Level Certificate



from Accra Academy School in 1996 as a private candidate. The nominee has a Diploma in Fashion Design and Technology from the London College of Fashion in the United Kingdom and a Certificate in Leadership and Governance from the Graduate School of Governance and Leadership in Accra. The nominee is currently pursuing an online MBA programme in Leadership and Sustainability at the Robert Kennedy College in Switzerland.

Hon. Okity-Duah was the Manager/Designer at Winigol Fashion from 2003 to 2004 and the Chief Executive Officer/Designer at Benita's Sewing Solutions (BSS) from 2005 to 2012. The nominee is a Member of the governing Board of the Ghana Trade Fair Company and currently the Member of Parliament for Ledzokuku Constituency.

### **Motivation to Engage in Politics**

The nominee informed the Committee that her motivation to engage in party politics was borne out of her desire to serve mankind and mother Ghana. She stated that it was the same passion that also motivated her to enter the Miss Ghana pageant in 1997 and subsequently became a fashion designer. She added that during her reign as Miss Ghana, she managed to bring hope to those who had lost hope and also put smiles on the faces of people by going the extra mile to ensure that she did the little she could to alleviate the plight of such people. On the lack of interest by her colleagues in the Fashion and Beauty Pageant Industry to join politics, the nominee indicated that they needed to be encouraged and supported. She used the platform to encourage her colleagues to join politics to serve the country.

### **Realignment of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs**

The nominee noted that the realignment of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs to include Gender and Social Protection was laudable and expressed her delight for the opportunity to work in the Ministry if given the nod. She indicated that the realignment of the Ministry was in line with the President's vision of placing people first and the protection of every Ghanaian irrespective of the person's gender. She assured the Committee of her commitment to support the sector Minister to deliver on this vision of the President.

### **Translating Experiences from Miss Ghana to the Ministry**

The nominee informed the Committee that she would make the most of the experience she gained during her reign as Miss Ghana to impact positively at the Ministry. She stated that she would use the opportunity to educate Ghanaians to change their negative perception about beauty pageants and encourage them to view such pageants as a platform to serve the needy in society and to become responsible individuals in society. She gave examples of young ladies who through the exposure provided by Miss Ghana Pageant have become Lawyers, financial consultants and a Member of Parliament.

### **Integration of Young Adults from Orphanages**

The nominee indicated that the Social Welfare Department had achieved a lot and continues to do a lot to ensure that young adults who were raised in orphanages had smooth integration into society. The main challenge, according to the nominee, was the adoption of physically challenged young adults from the orphanages by Ghanaians. She assured the Committee that if given the nod she would support her Minister to organise sensitisation programmes to encourage Ghanaian couples to adopt some physically challenged young adults.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Hon. (Mrs.) Benita Sena Okity-Duah as Deputy Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection.

## **15.0 HON. (DR.) HANNA LOUISA BISIW – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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### **Background**

Hon. (Dr.) Hanna Louisa Bisiw was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July, 1972. She attended Royal International Preparatory School in Kumasi from 1981 to 1985. She started her secondary

education at the Kumasi Girls' Secondary School from 1985 to 1986 and continued at the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial School, Esbec, Cuba from 1986 to 1991. She attended the Andres Greichko IPUEC Pre-University in Cuba from 1991 to 1993 and attended the Agrarian University of Havana, in Cuba from 1993 to 1999 where she pursued a programme in veterinary medicine and graduated as a Veterinary Doctor. Hon. (Dr.) Bisiw managed the Amakom Veterinary Hospital in Kumasi from 2002 till 2004 when she moved to the West African Fisheries, Prampram as Quality Control Manageress. Having left West African Fisheries in 2006, she joined the Vector Control Project (jointly operated by Labiofam S.A. and the Ministry of Health) from 2007 to 2009 as Executive/Bilingual Secretary.

Hon. (Dr.) Bisiw served as a Deputy Minister of Water Resources, Works and Housing from 2009 to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2013. She is currently the Member of Parliament for the Tano South Constituency in the Brong Ahafo Region.

### **Anthrax Outbreak**

Commenting on the frequent outbreak of the anthrax disease in the northern part of Ghana, the nominee stated that anthrax is a very contagious disease caused by bacteria which can survive for about forty-eight years in the infected area. She indicated that Ghana has not been able to eliminate the disease due to the challenge of the dwindling numbers of Veterinary Doctors and the unwillingness of farmers to vaccinate their animals. She informed the Committee that the use of normal bleach and the proper disposal of the carcasses of infected animals would help curb the spread of the disease.

### **Shortage of Veterinary Doctors in the Country**

Responding to a question relating to whether the shortage of Veterinary Doctors in Ghana is as a result of some animals ordinarily considered as pets being delicacies of some people in the country, the nominee stated that the differences in meat preference among different sections of the Ghanaian population has to do with cultural beliefs. According to Hon. (Dr.) Bisiw, the shortage of Veterinary Doctors in Ghana is not due to the fact that some animals

considered as pets are delicacies of some people in the country, but rather the hitherto non-existence of University programmes to train Veterinary Doctors in Ghana. She lauded the efforts by the Public Universities in the country for introducing programmes in veterinary medicine. In her opinion, this development would help boost the number of Veterinary Doctors in the near future.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Hon. (Dr.) Hanna Louisa Bisiw as Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture.

## **16.0 HON. AQUINAS TAWIAH QUANSAH – DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT**

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### **Background**

Hon. Aquinas Tawiah Quansah was born on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1967 in Accra in the Greater Accra Region. He had his basic education at Cann Primary School in Accra from 1973 to 1979 and Cann Middle School from 1979 and 1982. He attended Kaneshie Secondary Technical School from 1982 to 1987 where he obtained his G.C.E. Ordinary Level Certificate and the Extra Mural Academy for his G.C.E. Advanced Level Certificate from 1987 and 1989. In 2001, the nominee enrolled at the Almeda University, U.S.A. where he was awarded a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in 2003. Hon. was also awarded an Executive Certificate in Financial Management by the Pan African Training Institute in Accra in 2006.

Hon. Quansah served as a National Service Person at the Cape Three Points D/A J.S.S. from 1989 to 1991. He started work as a Food and Beverage Cashier at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Accra from 1991 to 1993. He later worked as a Sales Promoter for the Meridian Tobacco Company Limited from 1993 to 1995. He served as a Production Manager for the Quality Grain Company Limited at Aveyime from 1996 to 2000. He also worked as a Project Manager for Engineers and Planners between 2000 and 2002 and later as an Administrative

and Human Resource Manager for Express Maritime Services, Tema from 2002 to 2004. He also worked as a Business Development Manager for Alliance Media Ghana between 2004 and 2008.

The nominee was appointed a Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development from May 2011 to February 2012 the Deputy Minister for the Central Region February 2012 to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Hon. Quansah is currently the Member of Parliament for the Mfantseman Constituency and a Board Member of Bulk Oil Storage and Transport (BOST).

### **Challenges Facing the Fishing Sector**

Responding to a question on the challenges facing the Fishing Sector in the country, the nominee stated that the challenges in the Fishing Sector can be categorised into biological, man-made and ecological. He cited access to fishing gears, the use of light for fishing and depleting fish stock as the main challenges facing the Sector. According to the nominee, the use of unorthodox fishing methods depletes the fish stock thus making the industry less lucrative.

He stressed the need for strict adherence to the Fisheries Act (Act 625) to help save the fish stock, protect water bodies and the environment; and the need for the Navy (Marine Police) to help enforce Act 625 by ensuring that culprits are arrested and prosecuted. The nominee also advocated for alternative livelihood for fishermen living along the coast to reduce the overreliance on fishing and called for the establishment of off seasons in order to give opportunity for the fish to breed.

He assured the Committee of his commitment to work in consultation with the Sector Minister to explore the possibility of introducing fingerlings into the country's fresh water bodies.

### **Fish Storage and Processing**

On how to improve cold storage facilities to ensure that the fisher folk do not lose their catch, the nominee informed the Committee that the Government has a programme to construct cold storage facilities across the beaches. According to the nominee, the programme will also establish fish processing facilities along coastal towns and fishing communities.

He promised to assist the Sector Minister to expedite action on the commencement of the Projects.

### **Fisheries College**

Commenting on the status of work on the proposed Fisheries College in Anomabo in the Central Region, the nominee informed the Committee that land has been acquired and the necessary compensation has also been paid. He indicated that pipelines have been extended to the site and that hopefully by June, 2013, construction works would commence.

### **Insurance for Fishermen**

On the status of the proposed life insurance for the fisher folk, the nominee stated that two Insurance Companies have submitted proposals for the programme. He indicated that discussions to determine the source of funding for the premium and its modalities are ongoing. In his opinion, the insurance would assist the fisher folk salvage themselves in times of disaster.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Hon. Aquinas Tawiah Quansah as Deputy Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development.

## **17.0 HON. (MS.) RACHEL FLORENCE APPOH – DEPUTY MINISTER- DESIGNATE FOR GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

### **Background**

Hon. Rachel Florence Appoh was born on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1980 in Accra. She hails from Gomoa Aboso in the Central Region. She had her Basic and Secondary Education at Boa-Amponsem Primary and Secondary Schools at Dunkwa-on-Offin in the Central Region from 1986 to 1997. She also attended Nsaba Secondary School from 1998 to 1999 for her Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination. Hon. Appoh proceeded to Cape Coast Polytechnic and acquired a Diploma in Business Studies in 2002. She was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration at the Pentecost University College, Accra in 2008.

Hon. Appoh worked as a Cashier at Taj Investment Limited in Accra from August 2003 to February 2005 and as a producer at Nyankonton Films also in Accra from October 2005 to March 2008. She worked with AngloGold Ashanti Limited, Obuasi as a Cost Controller from November 2008 to December 2010 and Kama Group of Companies, Accra as an Internal Auditor from February 2011 to January 2013.

Hon. Rachel Florence Appoh is currently the Member of Parliament for Gomoa Central Constituency in the Central Region.

### **Domestic Violence**

Touching on the issue of domestic violence in the country, the nominee stated that social scourge causes separation and divorce and also deters most women from marrying. She however debunked the notion that only women suffered from the scourge and added that the illusion has resulted from a lack of courage on the part of men who fall victim to such incidents to report to the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service. She stated that if such incidents were reported, counseling and other appropriate measures could be employed to address them.

The nominee indicated that issues relating to domestic violence pose a serious challenge to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection due to the circumstances within which they happen. Hon. Appoh therefore called for the education of both sexes for men to appreciate their wives and women to also respect and submit to their husbands.

### **Migration from the Northern to the Southern Part of Ghana**

The nominee lamented on the movement of people from the Northern part of the country (especially women), to the Southern part to work as head porters (Kayayee). She attributed the bane to poverty, unemployment and lack of education and noted that the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection alone cannot address it. For this reason, the nominee called for collaboration among the Ministries of Trade and Industry, Food and Agriculture, Employment and Labour Relations and Education to address the issue. Hon. Appoh further recommended the building of more schools and training centres in rural communities to enhance access to education and provide vocational skills.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus*, the nomination of Hon. (Ms.) Rachel Florence Appoh as Deputy Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection.

## **18.0 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.) Ahmed Yakubu Alhassan** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Food and Agriculture.**



2. **Hon. Murtala Muhammed Ibrahim** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Information and Media Relations.**
3. **Hon. Edwin Nii Lantey Vanderpuye** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Trade and Industry.**
4. **Ms. Victoria Lakshmi Hamah** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Communications.**
5. **Hon. Baba Jamal Mohammed Ahmed** - **Deputy Minister-Designate Local Government and Rural Development.**
6. **Mr. John Alexander Ackon** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs.**
7. **Hon. Isaac Adjei Mensah** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Roads and Highways.**
8. **Ms. Abla Dzifa Gomashie** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts.**
9. **Mr. Antwi-Boasiako Sekyere** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Employment and Labour Relations.**
10. **Hon. (Alhaji) Bashir A. Fuseini Alhassan** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for the Northern Region.**
11. **Hon. (Mrs.) Benita Sena Okity-Duah** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Gender, Children and Social Protection.**
12. **Hon. (Dr.) Hanna Louisa Bisiw** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Food and Agriculture.**
13. **Hon. Aquinas Tawiah Quansah** - **Deputy Minister-Designate for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development.**

14. Hon. (Ms.) Rachel Florence Appoh

- Deputy Minister-Designate  
for Gender, Children and  
Social Protection.

Respectfully submitted.



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



.....  
**PEACE FLAWOYIFE (MS.)**  
**(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)**

**APRIL, 2013**