

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

TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT

OF THE

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

ON

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT'S
NOMINATIONS FOR
MINISTERIAL AND DEPUTY MINISTERIAL
APPOINTMENTS**

19TH MARCH, 2012

Acc No: 3359 CI

Class No: CR/RIDM/12

1.0 INTRODUCTION

His Excellency President J.E.A. Mills communicated to Parliament for prior approval of the nomination of the following persons for appointment as Deputy Ministers pursuant to article 256(1) of the 1992 Constitution. They are:

- 1. Hon. Henry Ford Kamel - Volta Regional Minister-Designate, and**
- 2. Ambassador Victor Emmanuel Smith - Eastern Regional Minister-Designate**

In accordance with Order 172(2) of the Standing Orders of the House, the nominations were on Thursday 8th March 2012 referred to the Appointments Committee for consideration and report.

The nominations were subsequently published in the media in accordance with Order 172(3) and memoranda were invited from the public on the nominees.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The following served as reference documents to the Committee during deliberations and public hearings of the Committee:

1. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana
2. Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana
3. Curricular Vitae of nominees

PROCEDURE

On appearing before the Committee, 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 OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 HON. HENRY FORD KAMEL – VOLTA REGIONAL MINISTER-DESIGNATE

Background

Hon. Henry Ford Kamel was born on 21st December, 1962 at Guaman – Buem in the Volta Region. He attended Savelugu L. A. Primary School from 1968 to 1973 and Airbone Force Complex, Tamale in 1974 for his basic education.

Hon. Kamel attended St. Charles Minor Seminary, Tamale from 1975 to 1980 for his 'O' Level Certificate. He later attended Navrongo Secondary School from 1981 to 1983 where he earned his 'A' level Certificate. He also attended the Ho Polytechnic from 1995 to 1998.

From 1984 to 1990, Hon Kamel worked with Ghana Secondary School, first as a National Service Person and later as a tutor. Yet later he taught at S. D. A. Secondary/Commercial College from 1991 to 1992. He was also the Project and Marketing Officer at North Volta Rural Bank from 1997 to 1998.

Hon. Kamel has held several positions. He was the President of the Ghana National Union of Polytechnic Students from 1997 to 1998. He was also the Branch Secretary for the NDC from 1993 to 2000 when he became an NDC Constituency Executive Member till 2002. He later became the NDC Constituency Chairman from 2002 to 2004.

Hon. Kamel has been the Member of Parliament for the Buem Constituency from 2005 to date. He is a member of the Special Budget Committee of Parliament and the Water Resources, Works and Housing Committee.

On May, 2009, Hon. Kamel was presented a Plaque by the West Afrcan Nobles Forum.

Hon. Kamel is the Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources from 2009 to date.

Catholic Background

Hon Kamel informed the Committee that he was baptized into the Catholic Church in 1962 and that he does his best to attend church services whenever possible. As to whether he intended to go into clergy, he answered in the

negative but quickly explained that may be after retiring from politics, he would consider going into evangelism.

Attendance of Ho Polytechnic

The nominee explained to the Committee that he attended the Ho Polytechnic from 1995 to 1998 but could not obtain the intended Higher National Diploma (HND) due to a 'referral' in one paper.

West African Nobles Forum Award

On what basis he was awarded a West African Nobles Forum (WANF) award, Hon. Kamel explained to the Committee that he received the award for the work he had done as a Member of Parliament both in the House and in his constituency. He added that he was not the only Member of Parliament to have received that award and that several Members of the House have been equally honoured with it.

Ewe Language Proficiency

The nominee was asked of his proficiency in the Ewe language. To this, he responded that even though he comes from the Ewe-land and all members of his nuclear family speak the Ewe language, he could not properly speak the language because he "did not grow up at home". He referred to his inability to speak the Ewe language as an unfortunate handicap.

The nominee nonetheless explained that the Volta Region is composed of many different ethnic groups and that apart from the Ewe language, he could speak several of the other languages. He proposed to work effectively with the team at his disposal, especially the Deputy Regional Minister who was very proficient in Ewe. He was confident that with hard work, he could succeed as a Regional Minister irrespective of his inability to speak Ewe and cited Col Kabore for example as one non-Ewe-speaking Volta Regional Minister who chalked a lot of success.

Peace during the upcoming elections

The nominee stated that if approved, he would work with the good social support systems available in the region to ensure peace before, during after the forthcoming elections. He saw himself as a person of calm demeanor.

He added that he draws a lot of strength from God; hence he was sure of acquitting himself creditably in the position of Volta Regional Minister, if approved.

Census and Voter Population

As to whether the national census figures had a direct bearing on the voter population, the Hon Member of Parliament for Buem Constituency indicated that census figures have a lot of demographic information which tend to have a bearing on the voter population.

Bush Fires

To a question on how to control bushfires in the region, the Volta Regional Minister-Designate informed the Committee that there is the need to revisit the PNDC law on bushfires to help strengthen the law and make it more workable. To him, the fight against bush fires is a collective effort which should not be left to few individuals or institutions. He invited traditional authorities to join in the fight and also called for better resourcing of the Ghana National Fire Service. He expressed desire for stiffer penalties to be imposed on bush fire offenders.

Recommendation

The Committee unanimously recommends to the House to approve of the nomination of Hon. Henry Ford Kamel as Volta Regional Minister by consensus.

4.2 AMBASSADOR VICTOR E. SMITH - EASTERN REGIONAL MINISTER-DESIGNATE

Background

Ambassador Victor Smith was born on 27th March, 1955 in Accra. He hails from Kukurantumi in the Eastern Region. He attended the Ring Road East Primary and Middle School in Accra for his basic education from 1961 to 1967. He later attended St. Augustine's College in Cape Coast from 1967 to 1975 for his GCE 'O' Level and 'A' Level Certificates. He also attended the University of Science and Technology School of Medical Sciences from 1976 to 1980.

He discontinued the Medical School to attend University of Wales, Cardiff from 1981 to 1984 where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science (Honors) in Maritime Studies. Between 1992 and 1993, he pursued and was awarded a Master's in Business Administration from the Cardiff School of Business, University of Wales.

Ambassador Smith has worked in several organizations and held a number of positions. From January to December 1985, he worked as an Analyst for the Volta Lake Transport Company, Akosombo. He also worked as the Field Sales Manager at Leyland Motors Ghana Limited from January 1986 to December 1988. Between March and December, 1994, Mr. Smith worked as a management consultant at the State Enterprises Commission. He later worked as Special Aide at the Office of the First Lady from 1995 to 2000. From January, 2001 to April 2008, He worked as the Special Aide and Director of Public Affairs for Former President Jerry John Rawlings.

Ambassador Smith was appointed Presidential Staffer at the Office of the President from January to December, 2009. He was appointed Ghana Ambassador to the Czech Republic (with concurrent accreditation to Hungary and Slovakia) in January 2010, a position he held till December 2011 when he was appointed a Presidential Advisor (Special Duties) at the Office of the President.

Allegation of Former Administration attempting to Assassinate Former President Rawlings

On an alleged comment made by the nominee to the effect that the erstwhile Kufour Administration attempted to take the life of former President Rawlings, Ambassador Smith explained that he had a radio interview about a week ago in

which it became necessary for him to put out what nearly happened to Former President Jerry Rawlings.

He stated that on the 8th of June, 2001, armed men in about seven (7) pick-up trucks were trying to storm the former president's home, hence his impression of the situation as an attempt to harm the former president. He said it was only his 'opinion that something diabolical was about to happen' to the former president that led him to inform the National Security Coordinator at the time about the development.

On this note, Chairman of the Committee admonished the nominee, as an incoming chairman of the Eastern Regional Security Council (REGSEC) to decipher wisely between information to put in the public domain and information to hold as secret.

Why the Nominee left Medical School

As to why he left the KNUST School of Medical Sciences without completing his course of study, the nominee said the reasons were personal to him.

Control of his Constituency Supporters

To a question that he may become compromised if a matter bordering on a breach of security ensued from his supporters in the constituency which he seeks to represent in the run-up to the elections, the nominee stated emphatically to the Committee that he would not be biased in any way in the performance of his REGSEC duties even if security measures are required to be taken against his own supporters in the Constituency. He explained that the REGSEC would not be composed of him alone, but of other professionals and personalities who he believed are level headed and objective in the performance of their duties.

'Galamsey' Operations

The Eastern Regional Minister-Designate expressed the opinion that 'galamsey' operators in the Akyem Abuakwa area in particular and the region as a whole may not have gone through the proper procedures to get the appropriate permits to embark on their trade. If approved as Regional Minister, he proposed to ensure that the right procedures are followed by small scale miners to help arrest the degradation of the environment. He assured the Committee that the "right thing" would be done in this regard.

Allegation of the US\$5 billion Oil Deal

The nominee admitted having made a publication in which he alleged that the then President Kufour was involved in a US\$5 Billion oil deal in Kuwait. He said that publication was informed by an information which he obtained from a source close to the then President who made him to believe that the story was true. As to whether with the benefit of hindsight he still believes the story was true, the nominee responded simply "I don't know".

Pressed further to state his position on the veracity or otherwise of the statement in question which he published, the nominee stated that he could not personally prove the allegation but he insisted that the publication was based on a source close to the former President.

Exit from the Office of the former President

Ambassador Smith denied that he was dismissed from his work with the former first family because of his "lies and dishonesty", and stated that he rather received a text message from the former President thanking him for his service to the former first family and relieving him of his post.

To a question of being sacked from the Office of the former President for treachery or untruthfulness, the nominee indicated that he was not aware of those assertions as reasons for his exit.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends **by a Majority Decision**, that the House approves of Ambassador Victor Emmanuel Smith as Eastern Regional Minister.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Appointments Committee has carried out its duty faithfully in accordance with the 1992 Constitution and the Standing Orders of the House with respect to the nomination of

- 1. Hon. Henry Ford Kamel - Volta Regional Minister-Designate, and**

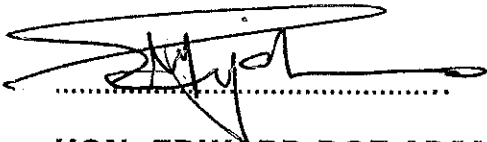
2. Ambassador Victor Emmanuel Smith - Eastern Regional Minister-Designate

The Committee is satisfied that the nominees have met the requirements of the Constitution.

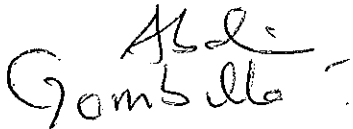
Pursuant to its mandate, the Committee unanimously recommends the nomination of Hon. Henry Ford Kamel to the House for approval **by consensus**.

In the case of Ambassador Smith, the Committee by **majority decision** recommends his nomination to the House for approval.

Respectfully submitted.



**HON. EDWARD DOE ADJAHO
FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRMAN,
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**



**ALHAJI IBRAHIM GOMBILLA
DEPUTY CLERK TO PARLIAMENT**

19TH MARCH, 2012