

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

**FIRST REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS
COMMITTEE**

ON

**THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINATIONS FOR
MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS**

1st February, 2005

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Pursuant to Article 78 (1) of the Constitution, His Excellency the President communicated to Parliament for prior approval, his nomination of the following persons for appointment as ministers as follows:

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| i, | Hon. J. H. Mensah | - | Senior Minister |
| ii, | Hon. Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu | - | Minister for Finance
& Economic Planning |
| iii, | Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafa | - | Minister of
Education and Sports |
| iv, | Hon. Dr. Kwame Addo Kufuor | - | Minister of Defence |
| v, | Hon. Courage Quarshigah | - | Minister of Health |
| vi, | Hon. Papa Owusu-Ankomah | - | Minister of Interior |
| vii, | Hon. Nana Addo Dankwah Akufo-Addo | - | Minister for
Foreign Affairs |
| viii, | Mr. Ayikoi Otoo | - | Attorney General |
| ix, | Mr. Alan Kyeremanteng | - | Minister of Trade
and Industry |
| x, | Hon. Mrs. Gladys Asmah | - | Minister of Fisheries |
| xi, | Hon. Prof. Mike Oquaye | - | Minister of Energy |
| xii, | Hon. Charles B. Bintim | - | Minister of Local
Govt. & Rural Development |
| xiii, | Hon. Prof. Dominic K. Fobih | - | Minister of Lands,
Forestry and Mines |
| xiv, | Hon. Ernest A. Debrah | - | Minister of Food
and Agriculture |
| xv, | Hon. Hajia Alima Mahama | - | Minister of Women
& Children's Affairs |
| xvi, | Hon. Hackman Owusu-Agyemang | - | Minister Works and
Housing |
| xvii, | Mr. Dan Botwe | - | Minister of
Information |
| xviii, | Mr. Jake Obetsebi Lamptey | - | Minister of Tourism
and Modernization of the Capital City |
| xix, | Hon. Albert Kan-Dapaah | - | Minister of
Communications |
| xx, | Hon. Felix Owusu-Adjapong | - | Minister of
Parliamentary Affairs |
| xxi, | Hon. Kwamena Bartels | - | Minister of Private
Sector Devt. and
Presidential Special Initiatives |
| xxii, | Prof. C. Ameyaw Akumfi | - | Minister of Harbours
and Railways |

xxiii,	Hon. Dr. Richard Anane	-	Minister of Road Transport
xxiv,	Hon. Joseph Kofi Adda	-	Minister of Manpower, Youth and Employment
xxv,	Hon. Yaw Barimah	-	Regional Minister - Eastern
xxvi,	Hon. S. K. Boafo	-	Regional Minister – Ashanti
xxvii,	Hon. Isaac Edumadze	-	Regional Minister - Central
xxviii,	Hon. Joseph B. Aidoo	-	Regional Minister – Western
xxix,	Mr. Boniface Gambilla	-	Regional Minister – Upper East
xxx,	Mr. Ambrose Dery	-	Regional Minister – Upper West
xxxi,	Mr. Kofi Dzamesi	-	Regional Minister – Volta
xxxii,	Hon. Sheik I. C. Quaye	-	Regional Minister – Greater Accra
xxxiii,	Nana Kwadwo Seinti	-	Regional Minister – Brong Ahafo
xxxiv,	Hon. B. Saddique Abu-Bakar-	-	Regional Minister -- Northern

1.2 In accordance with Order 172 (2) of the Standing Orders, the Speaker referred the nomination to the Appointments Committee on 13th January, 2005 for consideration and report.

2.0 **REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The Committee made reference to the underlisted documents during its deliberations;

- i, Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, 1992
- ii, Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana
- iii, Supreme Court Ruling in "J.H. Mensah vs Attorney General" (28th May, 1997)
- iv, Official Report (Hansard), Volume 15; No. 27 14th February, 1997
- v, Official Report (Hansard), 8th July, 1997

3.0 **PROCEDURE ADOPTED**

Upon the referral, the Committee convened a meeting to discuss the procedure for considering the nominees and to draw up a schedule for the public hearing.

On the procedure, the Committee recalled the proceedings of the House in respect of incumbent Ministers who were re-nominated for appointment in February 1997. It was observed that two different Resolutions were passed by the House in respect of the matter; one on 14th February and the other on 8th July, 1997. The latter Resolution titled "*Procedure for the Approval of Retained Ministers*" which was passed by consensus was found especially relevant to the Committee's deliberations. The terms of that Resolution were as follows:

"THAT WHEREAS articles 78(1), 79(1) and 256 of the Constitution provide that no person shall be appointed a minister or Deputy Minister without the prior approval of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS Order 172 (2) of the Standing Orders of Parliament provides that it shall be the duty of the Appointments Committee to recommend to Parliament for approval or otherwise persons nominated by the President for appointment as Ministers and Deputy Ministers;

WHEREAS the House by a Resolution passed on 14th February 1997 resolved that – "if a person has been appointed a Minister or Deputy Minister with approval of Parliament and as an incumbent Minister or Deputy Minister, he is retained by the President. It shall not be necessary for Parliament to give another approval for such Minister or Deputy Minister";

WHEREAS the Supreme Court by its decision of 28th May 1997 on the question of prior approval of retained Ministers declared that every Presidential nominee for ministerial appointment, whether retained or new requires the approval of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS a consensus has been reached on this matter upon the recommendation of the leadership of the House;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED as follows:

- (a) that the Resolution of 14th February, 1997 is hereby reviewed*
- (b) that any person nominated by the President for reappointment as Minister or Deputy Minister shall have prior approval by Parliament in accordance with rules of the House; and that*
- (c) that prior approval is not a term of art."*

Guided by the Resolution and the said Supreme Court ruling, the Committee arrived at the decision that all the nominees should be considered fresh nominees and therefore required the approval of the House in accordance with the Constitution and Standing Orders (as well as the procedures of the Committee set out for the purpose). It was further argued that for retained Ministers, the last four years was even more significant in view of their record of office.

Having said this, the Committee was guided in the determination of its decision on each nominee by the provisions of article 94 of the Constitution.

4.0 INVITATION OF MEMORANDA

Pursuant to this decision, the Committee drew up a schedule for the public hearing of the nominees and published same in the mass media in accordance with Order 172 (3). Written memoranda, petitions or comments were also formally invited from the general public on the suitability, conduct, experience and capability of the nominees. In response, about thirty-five memoranda on various nominees were officially received by the Committee, although various petitions, written or otherwise got to members of the Committee in various forms which the Committee did not consider official or formal. The Committee at an earlier meeting, had agreed on the procedure for handling or considering the said memoranda, petitions and objections from the public concerning any of the nominees. It must be noted however that a good number of the submitted petitions, memoranda and objections turned out to be obnoxious, personalised and in most cases irrelevant to the task of the Committee.

On appearing before the Committee, the nominees testified on oath and answered questions on pertinent issues some of which were relevant to the positions for which they have been nominated. Where credible protest against a nominee was received, the nominee's reaction and in some cases explanations were sought on the issues raised and the Committee took into consideration such written memoranda before arriving at its decisions.

5.0 OBSERVATIONS

5.1 Day One - 21st January, 2005

The following nominees appeared before the Committee

- i. Hon. F. K. Owusu-Adjapong (MP)
- ii. Hon. J. H. Mensah (MP)
- iii. Hon. Y. Osafo Maafo (MP)
- iv. Hon. Dr. K. Addo Kufour (MP)
- v. Hon. Nana Akufo-Addo (MP)
- vi. Hon. K. Baah-Wiredu (MP)
- vii. Hon. Papa Owusu-Ankomah (MP)

Hon. F. K. Owusu-Adjapong (MP) – Minister-designate for Parliamentary Affairs

Hon. Owusu-Adjapong, MP for Akim Swedru, justified the existence of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as necessary in order to have a strong linkage between Parliament and the Executive. He informed the Committee that the Ministry has secured a new office and the requisite personnel and that the public will soon feel the impact of its work. He said in collaboration with the Public Affairs Department of the Parliamentary Service, the media and other relevant agencies, his Ministry will undertake extensive public educational campaign on the work of Parliament to deepen public understanding of the work Parliament.

When concern was raised about his relationship with colleague MPs and other officers of Parliament, Hon. Owusu- Adjapong who is incidentally the Majority Leader stressed that he takes his work seriously and he is keen on attaining results and therefore not patient with those whose conduct turn to inhibit the smooth running of the legislature. He is inclined to achieve results by consultations and sincere commitment to duty.

On the security of Parliament, Hon. Owusu-Adjapong said it has improved in the last two years with an increase in the number of police officers stationed in Parliament. He said when given approval by this Hon. House, he will use his office to assist the Parliamentary Service to secure some modern equipment to further improve the general security of the precincts of Parliament.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. J. H. Mensah (MP) - Senior Minister-designate

Hon. J. H. Mensah told the Committee that the question of constitutional or legal basis of his post does not arise because the Constitution does not prescribe any ministry. According to him it is only a matter of administrative convenience in running his mandate that the President designates Ministers. He explained that his role as Senior Minister is captured in article 76(2) of the Constitution; that is to assist the President in the administration of the general policy of government.

The Senior Minister-designate explained that the development paradigm of the Government, among others, is based on partnership between Government and the private sector in which the latter plays a leading role in the actual production of economic goods and services while the former takes good care of the macro-economic framework. He noted that an important component of that paradigm is emphasis on a knowledge-based economy and therefore the need for education and training as key incentive for the private sector. Towards this, more attention will be focused on technical and vocational training to feed small medium enterprises which hold the potential for more job creation.

The Committee recommend his nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. Yaw Osafo Maafo (MP) - Minister-designate for Education and Sports

Hon. Osafo Maafo, MP for Akim Oda, told the Committee that the second term of the NPP Administration will focus on the development of human resource which is education. He noted that the whole world is moving in the direction of science and technology which is underpinned by mathematics. When approved, therefore, he will initiate a policy that will seek to integrate Ghana fully in the world information society by providing additional incentives for both teachers and pupils/students of science and mathematics.

On the expansion of residential accommodation for tertiary educational institutions, the nominee said he would encourage private sector participation in the provision of such facilities. What is important is a proper macro-economic framework. He illustrated with the case of KNUST where accumulated pensions under their pension scheme had been channelled into a student housing property from which their earnings is now averaging 32% as compared to 17.5% from Treasury Bills.

Hon. Osafo Maafo, told the Committee that his immediate priority in sports would be to pursue Ghana's qualification for the World Cup competition and he will work hard to achieve this target. In the long term, however, he expressed the view that there is the need to diversify sports in order to add to football. He said sports throughout the world is business and as such funds generated in the operations of the sector must be looked at very seriously. Another dimension to sports development in the country is to "catch them young" and therefore competition at the lower levels must be taken seriously.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. Dr. Kwame Addo Kufour (MP) – Minister-designate for Defence

Hon. Dr. Addo Kufour noted that during his first term as Minister of Defence, there has been an immense improvement in the relationship between the military and civilians. The military presently has a more friendly posture in their conduct with enhanced conditions of service which has led to very high morale among personnel. He mentioned some of the more tangible achievements as the Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Centre, Phase II of the 37 Military Hospital, the Burma Hall and the Computer Centre stocked with 100 computers.

The nominee, who is also the MP for Manhyia, told the Committee that, when approved, his second term as Minister of Defence would continue to ensure that the Armed forces remain focused and do not interfere in civil matters. In pursuit of this, emphasis would be laid on respect for democratic governance in the training curriculum of the Armed forces as well as facilitate their regular interaction with foreign military organisations. Hon. Addo Kufour informed the Committee that he had negotiated with the Chinese to put up a new Ministry of Defence and this would be constructed in during a second term in office.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo (MP) – Minister-designate for Foreign Affairs

Hon. Nana Akufo-Addo told the Committee that Ghana has a clear-cut foreign policy which President Kufour's administration has been implementing. That policy is based on the principle that charity begins at home and hence good neighbourliness is central to the policy; our

relations with our immediate neighbours are productive and fruitful. The policy also features a full role not just in matters of peace and security but also in the whole integration process of ECOWAS. A concentric part of Ghana's foreign policy is a contribution to the realisation of the objectives of the African Union, the United Nations and the World beyond Africa. The foreign policy is also being used as an avenue to increase the economic development of the nation.

On his contribution to ensure good governance in the country, the nominee, who is also MP for Akim Abuakwa South, said as a Minister in the Cabinet he would not just say "I concur" on every issue that arise but rather express his frank views in all candour and honesty on matters of the day and therefore give the benefit of his knowledge and experience to the President. He said as Foreign Minister, he would continue to project the image of Ghana as a nation committed to democratic ideals where there is respect for the rule of law and human rights.

He denied that Ghana gave its expression of support to the US in the invasion of Iraq. He said Ghana supported the UN position and was against unilateralism in the determination of international affairs.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. Kwadwo Baah Wiredu (MP) – Minister-designate for Finance and Economic Planning

Hon. Baah Wiredu, MP for Asante Akim South, told the Committee that he would work hard to ensure that the fruits of President Kufour's second term reflect in the pockets of the people through prompt payment for goods and services rendered to government. He said he would institute measures to improve upon revenue collection, especially at the ports and an expansion of the tax net rather than increase the present levels of taxes.

On measures to move the economy out of the stabilisation phase into the growth phase, the nominee said there is the need for an expansion of goods, services and works subject to the provisions of article 24 of the Constitution. There must be increased trade and traders must keep accurate books of accounts. The nominee said he would pay very close attention to the effective utilisation of funds that have been allocated to ensure prudent fiscal management

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. Papa Owusu-Ankomah (MP)- Minister-designate for Interior

Hon. Papa Owusu-Ankomah said the morale of Police personnel has to do with their conditions of service and low perceptions of some members of the public. He paid tribute to the efforts of his predecessors in retooling the Police and said further support is being sought from South Africa to equip not only the Police but also the Fire Service and Prisons Service. In his view, the civilian population ought to understand that without them the Police cannot be effective. He suggested that close interactions with civilians should be fostered by the Police.

The nominee expressed the view that the solution to the Dagbon crises does not lie completely in the hands of government but indeed all Ghanaians particularly the goodwill and confidence of the factions involved. He assured the Committee that he would continue to work with the committee that had been put in place to advise the Minister on the matter.

On the state of preparedness to respond to national disaster such as the Tsunami, Hon. Owusu-Ankomah, who is also the MP for Sekondi agreed that NADMO as presently structured is not the best vehicle to enable us meet major disasters. He indicated that plans are underway to restructure the organisation into a national emergency relief service with improved resources that can enable it provide emergency relief in collaboration with the Fire Service, the military National Ambulance Service, etc., in times of disaster

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

5.2 Day Two - 24th January, 2005

The Committee held its second public hearing and the following nominees appeared before it;

- i. Hon. Hackman Owusu-Agyeman (MP)
- ii. Maj. (Rtd.) Courage Quarshigah
- iii. Hon. Prof. Dominic Fobih (MP)
- iv. Mr. Jake Obetsebi Lamptey
- v. Hon. Kwamena Bartels (MP)
- vi. Hon. S. K. Boafo (MP)

Hon. Hackman Owusu-Agyemang (MP) – Minister-designate for Works and Housing

Hon. Owusu-Agyemang, MP for New Juaben North, told the Committee that government intends to inject more capital into the water sector to ensure constant water supply for most communities. In this regard, the World Bank is providing a grant of US dollars 103 million to the government besides assistance from Nordic Fund for Urban Water programme. On private sector participation in the water supply, he informed the Committee that this would be limited in the first five years to management contract since management has been the major problem. This strategy is intended to help the country build sufficient capacity in water supply management.

The nominee expressed the view that there is the need to explore innovative strategies to promote the growth of the sector. To him, the state should be involved in housing delivery in order to energise the industry. Among others, the nominee said he would favour reduced interest rates on mortgage to make houses more affordable to the greater majority of Ghanaians.

Hon. Owusu-Agyemang admitted that his family has a company called "Sikelele" that imports building materials, health products etc. but he resigned as a director since becoming a Minister of State in 2001. He therefore did not see any conflict of interest situations arising in the performance of his ministerial duties.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Mr. Courage Korbla Quarshigah (Maj. Rtd.) – Minister-designate for Health

Mr. Quarshigah outlined three key areas of focus by the Ministry of Health when approved by the House. These are:

- a) recreation to keep fit
- b) preventive health care, and
- c) restoration

He emphasised the importance of environmental hygiene, good nutrition, and regular exercises in the promotion of a healthy life. He said the promotion and protection of health as a first measure, besides ensuring

preventive healthcare would be a way of reducing undue pressure on health workers so that their persistent agitation for additional incentives would also reduce.

The nominee said the exodus of certain health workers was due to the absence of critical medical equipment and facilities such as accommodation and transportation and therefore a steady improvement in the situation would be pursued. He expressed the view that training of nurses by private institutions must be regulated to ensure conformity with standard practice.

On the Aveyime rice project, Mr. Quarshigah maintained that the equipment at the factory were in good condition and were being regularly serviced by the agricultural engineers of the Ministry.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. Prof. Dominic K. Fobih - Minister-designate for Lands, Forestry and Mines

Hon. Prof. Dominic Fobih told the Committee that he succeeded in initiating a programme to provide incentives to individuals who were interested in plantation development and afforestation.

He said the Ministry is exploring the possibility of establishing a one-stop-shop for all agencies involved in land acquisition under a World Bank sponsored Land Administration Project. He said there is a restructuring exercise on land registration so that people would not have to travel to Accra to register land title deeds. He suggested that payment of compensation for land acquired by the state should be made on rental basis rather than bulk in order to cater for succeeding generations.

On the issue of "galamsey", Hon. Fobih who is also MP for Assin South, said operators need to be monitored to prevent them from causing unnecessary damage to the environment. He suggested that there was the need for the Surveys Department to map out less rich mineral areas and allocate them to the youth to engage them.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

**Mr. Jake Obetsebi Lamptey - Minister-designate for
Tourism and Modernization of the Capital City**

Hon. Jake Obetsebi Lamptey told the Committee that although Ghana has a comparative advantage in tourism, the nation lacked the necessary infrastructure and funds to develop its potentials in the industry. He said the Ministry has heightened awareness amongst Ghanaians about various tourist sites in the country. The Ministry has re-introduced chartered flights to Ghana with a view to compel scheduled flight operators to reduce their fares to Ghana. To complement this, the cost of construction of a hotel is also being reduced through a new incentive package. The EREDEC Hotel in Koforidua is also being converted into a training facility for the industry. All these are elements of a four-year strategic plan to promote tourism in Ghana.

The nominee said the President has a vision for a modern Accra - capital city that would be an attractive gateway to the rest of the country. The Ministry of Tourism and Modernisation of the Capital City is therefore providing a focus to the realization of this vision with three major deliverables, namely;

- a) provide a new plan for mega Accra 2005
- b) assist the AMA and other agencies to stop the deterioration of Accra and reverse it, and
- c) source private sector involvement in the provision of landmark sites in the capital

He admitted the potential of role conflict with other existing agencies but this has been managed so far through cooperation.

Hon. Obetsebi Lamptey denied three allegations made against him in a memorandum received by the Committee on:-

- a) the payment of an amount of One hundred and fifty million cedis (150,000,000) to his personal accounts,
- b) assistance to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) in the building of a Temple along the Independence Avenue in exchange for scholarship for his daughter's education in the USA, and
- c) the award of contract to Pro-designs, a company he is associated with, during the renovation of the Christianborg Castle, Osu.

A Sub-Committee of the Appointments Committee, which was tasked to check on some aspects of his evidence, found that while the procedure for paying contractors for work done through the office of the Chief of Staff instead of the Ministry of Works and Housing was irregular, there was no evidence of personal misappropriation by the nominee. It also found no

evidence at the time of preparing this report that Pro-design as an entity had ~~not~~ received any payment for any work on the Castle renovation project.

On the basis of these findings, therefore, the Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. S. K. Boafo (MP) - Regional Minister designate for Ashanti

Hon. S. K. Boafo told the Committee that during his first term as Regional Minister he has been able to maintain peace and stability in a Region that is otherwise perceived to be boisterous. Education, especially for the girl-child was also given a tremendous boost through renovation of school buildings. Hon. Boafo, who is also MP for Subin, mentioned that 350 unskilled youth have been engaged in urban afforestation. The GIHOC Shoe Factory in Kumasi which has been out of operation for some time has also been successfully divested and would soon commence operations. This should provide additional jobs for the unemployed.

As part of his vision for the region, when approved, the nominee said he would continue to work towards the maintenance of peace and security in the Ashanti Region. He would implement measures to ease traffic congestion in Kumasi and promote investments in the region.

Hon. Boafo denied allegations of unduly influencing the divestiture of the GIHOC Shoe Factory, the release of illegal chain-saw operators from lawful custody and the acquisition of a Diplomatic Passport for a close pal. He however admitted appointing Mr. Kwame Boafo a Legal Practitioner who is his brother as chairman of the Lands Commission in the region.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. Kwamena Bartels (MP) – Minister-designate for Private Sector Development and President's Special Initiatives

Hon. Kwamena Bartels, MP for Ablekuma North, told the Committee that the primary focus of the Ministry of Private Sector Development is how to generate capital for the private sector. He disclosed that many sources of funding exist but these are not known to private enterprises hence the Ministry would soon publish a directory of prospective funding agencies to guide entrepreneurs. The nominee said since its establishment three years ago, the Ministry has supported business enterprises with funds

amounting to two million US dollars (US \$2m) annually from the African Development Fund and a thirty million dollars (US \$ 30 million) DANIDA credit facility, among others. He assured the Committee that a second term in office, when approved, would see a very proactive drive towards the productive sectors of the economy.

On the President's Special Initiatives (PSI), Hon. Bartels said it is about broadening and diversifying the country's exports to strengthen the nation's resistance to market shocks arising out of international price collapse of our main export commodities. He said his Ministry's focus would not be diluted by the addition of the PSI to its responsibilities. He explained that the PSI is Government's effort to facilitate the commercial production of the selected commodities by private sector operators who should eventually take complete charge of the initiatives.

He informed the Committee that there are plans for the President to launch new initiatives on cotton and sorghum to support farmers in the northern parts of the country.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

5.3 **Day Three - 25th January, 2005**

The Committee held its third public hearing during which the following nominees appeared before it;

- i. Hon. Hajia Alima Mahama (MP)
- ii. Hon. Albert Kan Dapaah (MP)
- iii. Hon. Ernest Akoboah Debrah (MP)
- iv. Prof. Christopher Ameyaw Akumfi
- v. Hon. Charles Binipom Bintim (MP).

Hon. Hajia Alima Mahama – Minister-designate for Women and Children's Affairs

Hon. Alima Mahama told the Committee that certain socio-cultural arrangements have negatively impacted on women such that they have been relegated to the sidelines of policy decision-making in national development. She therefore saw the creation of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC) as a positive idea for women to collaborate and harmonise policies for the advancement of womenfolk. The Ministry under her leadership would work assiduously in order to achieve concrete results.

Asked for her views about affirmative action, she said affirmative action is necessary to correct certain distortions in the development of females as

against males. She however, pointed out that even within such a framework, appointment of women to public positions should take into account their possession of the requisite skills and competence. She disagreed with the view that affirmative action rather makes women inferior to their male counterparts. Hajia Mahama told the Committee that the framework of the Domestic Violence Bill seeks to promote women's rights within the domestic setting. To her, the clause that has generated so much controversy should be reconsidered and amended to make the Bill readily acceptable to all stakeholders. She said she would initiate a programme to promote reproductive health among women.

The nominee indicated that, when approved, she would draw up a childhood development plan that would outline the role and responsibilities of children. On the growing incidence of "streetism", she indicated that street children would receive attention by way of vocational and technical institutions to equip them with skills to work and fend for themselves. She said the NCWD and GNCC are to become implementing agencies under the Ministry.

The Committee recommends her nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. Albert Kan Dapaah (MP) – Minister-designate for Communications

The Albert Kan Dapaah told the Committee that his vision for the Ministry of Communications was for a versatile and reliable national telecommunication infrastructure to accelerate the country's socio-economic development and propel the country into the information society. Among others, he said Cabinet has set up a team to upgrade Volta River Authority's (VRA) fibre optic network, which is a huge but under-utilised national resource, to serve the entire country. The nominee said the Ministry has established the first ever incubatory facility to train fresh graduates from the universities and polytechnics.

The nominee, who is also the MP for Afigya-Sekyere East, told the Committee that the cost of providing telecom services was huge and for that matter price controls or standardisation may not be in the best interest of the industry. However, the liberalisation of the industry and competition would eventually force operators to lower their tariffs as is happening now.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. Ernest Akoboah Debrah (MP) - Minister-designate for Food and Agriculture

Hon. Ernest Akoboah Debrah told the Committee that Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) should be a platform for accelerated growth for agriculture to ensure food security, raw material availability and export diversification. He said he would bring his leadership skills and experience, through which he was able to achieve relative peace in Dagbon, to bear on the realisation of this vision. He said special attention would be paid to such crops as cashew, groundnuts and mango. He promised to work hard to convert large uncultivated lands especially in the northern parts of Ghana into major agricultural areas.

The nominee, who is also the MP for Tano North, said the issue of agricultural subsidies was a thorny issue that had international implications. He pointed out that subsidies need not be direct to farmers but also indirect through extension services and other transaction costs borne by the Government. In his view, the country must find ingenious ways to provide subsidies to farmers, for example, through research and development of high yielding crop varieties. According to him the use of modern equipment, right technology and easy access to finance would make agriculture attractive to the unemployed. The nominee said he would set up effective linkages between agricultural research and marketing to reduce the incidence of post-harvest losses.

As a Land Economist, Hon. Debrah expressed concern about land use in the country and called for a policy that would demarcate lands for different uses.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Prof. Christopher Akumfi Ameyaw - Minister-designate for Harbours and Railways

Prof. Christopher Ameyaw Akumfi told that the Committee that the creation of the Ministry of Ports, Harbours and Railways has given a sharper focus on the rail and maritime sectors to contribute to the transportation improvement programme of the government. He said all stakeholders in the maritime industry contribute to delays in the clearance of goods and that measures were being instituted to expedite the process in order to reduce the turn around-time of ships to the barest minimum. According to him, consultations were being held with the security agencies to reduce the number of check points on our major highways to set the Gateway Programme on course. He emphasised the need to separate

port operations by the GPHA from regulatory functions and therefore a permanent body would be set up to handle this function. He promised to initiate measures to check alleged irregularities in the award of contracts by the GPHA.

On rail transport, Prof Ameyaw Akumfi said efforts were being made to rehabilitate and expand the railway system in the country but securing funds has been a major constraint. This notwithstanding, the Ministry has been able to secure some funds for the rehabilitation of the Accra – Tema and Western rail lines. The nominee appealed for state intervention in the funding of the rehabilitation and expansion of the country's rail network. He said two companies have expressed interest in the maintenance of our railway network and a committee would be formed to negotiate with these two companies after which a selection would be made. He said, currently the Ghana Railway Limited is rehabilitating the Tema-Accra rail line.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. Charles Binipom Bintim (MP) – Minister-designate for Local Government and Rural Development

The Hon. Minister designate told the Committee that his experience as a Deputy Minister and as DCE would be brought to bear on his new appointment when approved. The nominee said he would institute measures to stem the incidence of irregularities in the award of contracts by district assemblies. Such measures would include the strict compliance with the requirement that Members of Parliament participate in the activities of District Tender Boards. He stressed on the need for harmony between MPs and DCEs for the progress of their respective assemblies and promised to pay attention to the matter.

The nominee, who is also the MP for Saboba, said the district assemblies need to strengthen their capacities for revenue mobilisation to enable them improve their service delivery. He said one way to do this is to involve traditional authorities in their revenue collection efforts. He noted that district assemblies need to devise better schemes for the disbursement of poverty alleviation funds rather than just allocating it as micro-credit facilities. The nominee expressed the view that DCEs are subjected to some form of vetting by their district assemblies before their confirmation. He assured the Committee that he would support any action taken by DCEs in the execution of their duties provided that due process was followed.

5.4 **Day Four - 26th January, 2005**

The Committee held its fourth public hearing and the following nominees appeared before it;

- i. Mr. Alan Kyeremanteng
- ii. Hon. Mrs. Gladys Asmah (MP)
- iii. Hon. Sheikh I. C. Quaye (MP)
- iv. Hon. Boniface Saddique Abu-Bakar (MP)
- v. Mr. Kofi Dzamesi
- vi. Mr. Ambrose Patrick Dery.

Mr. Alan Kyeremanteng – Minister-designate for Trade and Industry

Mr. Alan Kyeremanteng who took charge of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and President's Special Initiatives (PSI) in April 2003, told the Committee that he has been able to define a new vision and clear strategic direction for the Ministry. He indicated that for the first time, the Ministry has formulated a comprehensive and coherent national trade policy anchored on two pillars – an export-led industrialisation strategy and a domestic market-led industrialisation strategy. The nominee said he has also led a transformation of the civil service structure in the Ministry and if this succeeds it would become a case study for the new public sector reform programme.

Mr. Kyeremanteng said the "PSI" is a branding strategy that is meant to enhance the appeal of the crops to entrepreneurs and thereby create wealth. According to him, government's role in the PSI is limited to facilitation whilst funding for the projects is acquired from private capital market. He said that when approved by the House, he would seek to consolidate the Ministry's support programme to Small-Medium Enterprises aimed at improving their access to finance, technology and marketing skills.

He said the CNTCI loan was still being pursued and that it had not been frozen. He told the Committee that due authorisation was sought from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before the disposal of the old residence of Ghana's Ambassador to the US. Mr. Alan Kyeremanteng said Ghana has four Trade Missions in Geneva, Washington, London and Brussels and plans to appoint fifteen trade representatives to promote investment.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. Mrs. Gladys Asmah – Minister-designate for Fisheries

Hon. Mrs. Gladys Asmah, MP for Takoradi told the Committee that one area that is of keen interest to her is the development of aquaculture in the country. She said she was impressed by a demonstration of tilapia being grown in tanks in North Carolina and would very much like the Ministry to promote similar schemes all over Ghana. She said when given approval, she would organize a stake holders meeting to discuss the problems associated with the distribution of pre-mix fuel, among others in the fishing industry. This would enable the Ministry to formulate policies to solve these problems.

On her role in the Domestic Violence Bill, she explained that she only carried out a Cabinet directive to stay further action on it until the understanding and views of the broad majority of Ghanaians were sought on its provisions and their implications because as she puts it "the Bill is one law that goes into the bedroom of every family". Hon. Asmah denied allegations of "over-politicisation" of the disbursement of the Women Development Fund noting that instructions were issued to those involved to give it to qualified Ghanaian women of eighteen years and above without any political consideration.

The Committee recommends her nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. Boniface Saddique Abu-Bakar - Regional Minister designate for Northern Region

The Northern Regional Minister designate told the Committee that when approved, his priority would be to promote the region for investments and tourism. He said the enormous potential of the region should be developed to create jobs for the youth. To this end, he would continue to engage the traditional authorities, opinion leaders and the youth in healthy interactions towards the achievement of sustainable peace and security in the region. The emergency preparedness of the Police would also need to be reasonably improved through the establishment of new Police Stations at certain strategic locations to facilitate the rapid deployment of troops whenever the need arises.

On the perception of lack of neutrality by government in the handling of the Dagbon crises, the nominee said he would work with all stakeholders in the matter especially the Northern Caucus of the House to win the trust of the parties in the matter.

Hon. Abu-Bakar expressed the view that education, increased economic activities that could provide jobs would reduce ignorance and poverty amongst the people and thereby promote the development of the region. The nominee told the Committee that in collaboration with the Ministry of PSD & PSI he would ensure that plans to introduce a PSI on cotton and sorghum in the region materialise. Irrigation schemes would also be promoted to facilitate rice production in commercial quantities.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Mr. Kofi Dzamesi - Regional Minister-designate, Volta Region

Mr. Kofi Dzamesi told the Committee that he would work hard to reduce the illiteracy rate in the Region. He told the Committee an Educational Endowment Fund set up to support education in the Region has already yielded ₵200 million and that he would set up a board of trustees to commence disbursements.

Mr. Dzamesi said when his nomination is approved by this House he would, as a matter of urgency, facilitate the appointment of a legal officer for the Regional House of Chiefs to enable it form its Judicial Committee to assist in the resolution of chieftaincy and land disputes which threaten the stability of the Region. He recommended the establishment of a Police Station at Tsito to assist in the maintenance of law and order and the rapid deployment of personnel whenever the need arises.

He told the Committee that as a Deputy Minister, his role was to assist the Regional Minister to carry out the policies and programmes of the government for the Region. He refuted allegations of undermining the Regional Minister. He also denied allegations contained in a petition against his appointment on grounds that he ordered the ban on the holding of the annual convention of the Apostles Revelation Society (ARS). He said the decision was taken by the Regional Security Council in order to maintain public order and security. He again denied an allegation that he seized a tractor meant for the Keta District Assembly and sent it to work in his district.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

**Hon. Ambrose Patrick Dery - Regional Minister-designate
for Upper West Region**

Mr. Ambrose Dery told the Committee that literacy rate in the Upper West Region was very low. The poverty level was also very high as a result of low economic activity. To improve on these conditions in the Region, the nominee promised to embark on an aggressive educational programme to ensure that persons of school going age enrol and remain in school. The Bole – Bamboi road which is the main artery to the region would also receive due attention because its construction is key to any efforts to promote the economic potentials of the region.

He denied an allegation contained in a memorandum to the Committee to the effect that he had taken side with a faction in the Nandom chieftaincy dispute. He explained that his involvement was only limited to the performance of an official duty as Deputy Attorney General which he even gave up later in view of his association with the factions involved.

Mr. Dery assured the Committee that, when approved, he would not be involved in the determination of any chieftaincy matter in the Region but will follow due process in the performance of his duties at all times. He said as a lawyer he does not discriminate between persons but works almost like a robot – sticking to principles. Therefore, he would work with all persons for the accelerated development of the region.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

5.5 Day Five - 27th January, 2005

The Committee held its fifth public hearing and the following nominees appeared before it;

- vii. Hon. Joseph Boahen Aidoo (MP),
- viii. Mr. Dan Botwe,
- ix. Hon. Yaw Barimah (MP),
- x. Hon. Dr. Richard Anane (MP), and
- xi. Mr. Boniface Gambilla

**Hon. Joseph Boahen Aidoo (MP) – Regional Minister-designate,
Western**

Hon. J. B. Aidoo, MP for Amenfi East, on appearing before the Committee explained some of the tough actions he had to take as Regional Minister. He said he had succeeded in promoting Tourism at Nzulenzu which

abounds in so many tourist attractions. His responsibility now is to assist in the facilitation of all these tourist sites.

The nominee denied a number of allegations in various petitions sent to the Committee including allegations of interfering in chieftaincy disputes. He said as Regional Minister and Chairman of the Regional Security Council his duty was to ensure peace and security, therefore he was bound to step on the toes of individuals in discharging his duties.

The nominee said he got along with every body and it was not his nature to be rude therefore the accusation that he had bad human relations was not true. He also denied the allegation that he victimized staff of the Regional Co-ordinating Council who expressed differing views. He again denied an allegation that he ordered that a lady at the R.C.C be locked out of her office but admitted requesting for her transfer because he doubted her integrity on matters of confidentiality.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Mr. Dan Botwe – Minister-designate for Information

Mr. Dan Botwe told the Committee that his role as Minister, when approved, would be to disseminate information on government programmes and policies to the general public. In an answer to a question, he said he does not foresee any duplication in the role of the Minister of Information and that of the Press Secretary to the President. He said both positions had clearly defined roles. He noted that society needs to be well-informed in order to eliminate tensions resulting from misinformation. The existing system of communicating to the public will be improved upon.

The nominee said he would facilitate a two way communication process, so that while education Government programmes is on-going, feedback from the people would also be sent to Government. The nominee said he would use Embassies and other foreign representatives to market Ghana. He noted that information should be given out timely and that he would publicise the official government website for individuals and groups to access. This could be used to attract investors into the country.

He said he was aware of plans to transfer G.I.J to the Ministry of Education and Sports and assured the Committee that he would facilitate the process and also ensure that GIJ moves to its new site. Again, he gave an assurance to help source funds to complete NAFTI's Studio Complex and expand GBC's transmission nationwide.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. Yaw Barimah (MP) – Regional Minister-designate, Eastern

Hon. Yaw Barimah expressed the view that the prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS cases in the region, which happens to be the highest in country, was alarming but could be controlled. To him the menace has both educational and economic dimensions that require an integrated approach to address. Key among measures to be instituted would be intensified public education on HIV/AIDS, facilitation of economic activities, poverty reduction schemes, etc. He expressed the hope that these measures could improve living conditions and thereby reduce exposure to promiscuous lifestyles.

The nominee, who is also the MP for Koforidua, emphasised the need for a permanent solution to the perennial water shortage in the Koforidua municipality. This would be catalytic in the region's investment promotion drive and encourage people to go into small-scale industries like garments production.

Hon. Barimah refuted allegations by a petitioner that he (Hon. Barimah) caused his dismissal from the Management Development and Productivity Institute (MDPI) and explained that the Board of MDPI dismissed the petitioner for failing to produce certificates of his qualifications upon demand. He would also involve the District Assemblies in setting up small-scale enterprises and solve the farming conflict in the area by educating farmers on the right of tenant farmers.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Mr. Boniface Gambilla – Regional Minister-designate, Upper East

Mr. Boniface Gambilla demonstrated reasonable knowledge of conflicts and tensions in the Upper East Region and told the Committee that tact and facts were required for their resolution. Such tensions and conflicts, according to him, were rooted in chieftaincy/land disputes, ethnicity and politics. To him, enduring solutions to these conflicts/tensions lie with the people themselves; the RCC under his leadership can only play a facilitating role and this would be pursued.

The nominee said he would initiate measures to create some jobs in order to curtail southward migration of the youth from the region. He noted that the Upper East Region is an agricultural biased but has only three months of rains in a year therefore he would collaborate with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to set up irrigation dams for the cultivation various crops. Mr. Gambilla assured the Committee that he would draw on his rich experience in youth service to embark on skill training programmes for the youth, encourage rural enterprises like tie-and-dye, soap making etc. and tree planting exercises. The nominee also said he would encourage District Assemblies to incorporate sports development in their annual budgets.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

5.6 **Day Six - 28th January, 2005**

The Committee held its sixth public hearing and the following nominees appeared before it;

- i. Hon. Prof. Mike Oquaye (MP)
- ii. Mr. Ayikoi Otoo
- iii. Hon. Isaac Eduosar Edumadze (MP)
- iv. Nana Kwadwo Seinti
- v. Hon. Joseph Adda (MP)

Hon. Prof. Mike Oquaye (MP) - Minister-designate for Energy

Hon. Prof. Mike Oquaye, MP for Dome-Kwabenya, told the Committee that his duty as Minister of Energy would essentially be policy formulation, implementation and effective management of the Ministry. He would also be responsible for the coordination and monitoring of the performance of all agencies in the energy sector. Professor Oquaye indicated that he was prepared to learn and work closely with the technocrats in the Ministry in order to deliver on the expectations of Ghanaians.

The nominee said he was aware Government was yet to take a policy decision on the de-regulation of petroleum prices and disclosed that there will be a national debate on the matter to solicit inputs from all stakeholders. Among his plans for the Ministry, is to explore alternative sources of energy such as solar and wind to supplement electricity, especially for irrigation projects. He noted that nuclear energy was too expensive. He would also promote investments in Ghana's oil industry.

On his ability to cope with work outside academia, Prof. Oquaye said as Head of Ghana's Mission in India he had a very warm working relationship with Mission staff and expressed the hope that he would cope well in the new appointment when approved.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Mr. Ayikoi Otoo - Attorney General-designate

Mr. Ayikoi Otoo expressed the opinion that the Attorney General should be a member of government since according to article 88 of the Constitution s/he is the principal legal adviser to the government. In his opinion, the dual role of Attorney General and Minister of State were assigned by the Constitution.

He observed that the Attorney General's Department was plagued with a myriad of systemic problems that require a holistic redress in order to enable it effectively perform the functions conferred on it by the Constitution. Two of such problems were the mode of recruitment and retention of lawyers and poor Library facilities for references. These result in undue delay in the processing of dockets. He promised to pursue measures to enhance the conditions of service of lawyers at the Department to bring it to competitive levels in the market.

Commenting on the issue of gay marriage in Ghana, Mr. Otoo noted that the practice was alien to our culture and that the level of socio-economic development in countries where the practice was tolerated was different from that of Ghana.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Hon. Joseph Kofi Adda – Minister-designate for Manpower, Youth and Employment

Hon. Adda told the Committee that when his nomination is given approval, he would encourage formal education. He said it is very important to understand the category of youth unemployment so as to vary strategies to address them.

The nominee said he would ensure that university graduates are placed where their skills or knowledge would be required most. The generally trained graduates would be given further training so that they can acquire

the necessary experience. He suggested that fresh graduates should be placed on internship to equip them with some work experience. He said S.S.S graduates who are not able to continue to the university should be equipped with entrepreneurial skills.

The nominee said there was need to enhance the STEP programme and that rural enterprise and agro-based industries should be encouraged to help stop teenagers from migrating to Accra. He would create so many recreational centres for the youth and also foster closer relation between universities and industries. Hon Adda assured the Committee to ensure that NGO's pay taxes where required noting that some international protocols may have to be revisited.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

Nana Kwadwo Seinti – Regional Minister-designate, Brong Ahafo

Nana Kwadwo Seinti told the Committee that he was no longer a chief although he still carried the title of a chief. He admitted upon questioning that he bought a Toyota Pick-Up vehicle, whose auction had been authorised by the Chief of Staff, from a district in the Region. He denied an allegation of awarding contracts to unqualified contractors.

The Committee recommends his nomination for approval by consensus.

5.7 Deferral of Recommendations

The Committee could not take a decision on three of the nominees because there was the need to conduct further checks on certain aspects of their testimony before the Committee. They are;

1. Hon. Sheikh I. C. Quaye
2. Hon. Dr. Richard Anane
3. Hon. Isaac Edumadze

A Sub-committee of the Appointments Committee was therefore constituted to look into the issues and report for an appropriate decision.

Accordingly, the Committee submits that this Honourable House defers its decision on the three nominees to enable it conclude its deliberations well and advice the House as appropriate.

6.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Appointments Committee has carried out its duty faithfully in accordance with the Constitution and the Standing Orders of this House. While the Committee has performed this duty since the commencement of the Fourth Republic, these public hearings have been novel in terms of the huge public interest shown in its work by the citizenry. The public hearings were given live transmission by sections of the mass media. The Committee received an unprecedented number of memoranda which immensely assisted in its deliberations.

As already mentioned, retained Ministers also submitted to the rules and procedures of this House in accordance with the relevant Resolution of the House.

As we lay the foundations for our fledgling democracy, new challenges are emerging for the Committee. If the Committee is to continue to improve its performance in a manner that would uphold the dignity and independence of this House as a separate arm of government, then it is crucial to enhance its technical and resource capacity. This would enable it to conduct the necessary investigations into memoranda received on nominees. It may also be necessary to arrange a transitional calendar in such a way as to allow this Honourable House sufficient time to thoroughly execute its constitutional duty.

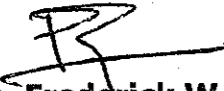
Having said this, the Committee recommends that this Honourable House approve, by consensus, the President's appointment of the following persons as Ministers of State. They are;


- i. Hon. Felix Owusu-Adjapong - Minister-designate for Parliamentary Affairs
- ii. Hon. J. H. Mensah - Senior Minister-designate
- iii. Hon. Yaw Osafo-Mafo - Minister-designate for Education and Sports
- iv. Hon. Dr. Kwame Addo Kufuor - Minister-designate for Defence
- v. Hon. Nana Akufo-Addo - Minister-designate for Foreign Affairs

- vi. Hon. Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu - Minister-designate for Finance & Economic Planning
- vii. Hon. Papa Owusu-Ankomah - Minister-designate for Interior
- viii. Hon. H. Owusu-Agyemang - Minister-designate for Works and Housing
- ix. Hon. Courage Quarshigah - Minister-designate for Health
- x. Hon. Kwamena Bartels - Minister-designate for Private Sector Devt. and Presidential Special Initiatives
- xi. Mr. Jake Obetsebi Lamptey - Minister-designate for Tourism and Modernization of the Capital City
- xii. Mr. Ayikoi Otoo - Attorney General-designate
- xiii. Mr. Alan Kyeremanteng - Minister-designate for Trade and Industry
- xiv. Hon. Mrs. Gladys Asmah - Minister-designate for Fisheries
- xv. Hon. Prof. Mike Oquaye - Minister-designate for Energy
- xvi. Hon. Charles B. Bintim - Minister-designate for Local Government & Rural Development
- xvii. Hon. Prof. Dominic Fobih - Minister-designate for Lands, Forestry and Mines
- xviii. Hon. Ernest A. Debrah - Minister-designate for Food and Agriculture
- xix. Hon. Hajia Alima Mahama - Minister-designate for Women & Children's Affairs
- xx. Mr. Dan Botwe - Minister-designate for Information
- xxi. Hon. Albert Kan-Dapaah - Minister-designate for Communications

- xxii. Prof. C. Ameyaw Akumfi - Minister-designate for Harbours and Railways
- xxiii. Hon. Joseph Kofi Adda - Minister-designate for Manpower, Youth and Employment
- xxiv. Hon. Yaw Barimah - Regional Minister-designate, Eastern
- xxv. Hon. S. K. Bofo - Regional Minister-designate, Ashanti
- xxvi. Hon. Joseph B. Aidoo - Regional Minister-designate, Western
- xxvii. Mr. Boniface Gambilla - Regional Minister-designate, Upper East
- xxviii. Mr. Ambrose Dery - Regional Minister-designate, Upper West
- xxix. Mr. Kofi Dzamesi - Regional Minister-designate, Volta
- xxx. Nana Kwadwo Seinti - Regional Minister-designate Brong Ahafo
- xxxi. Hon. B. Saddique Abu-Bakar - Regional Minister-designate, Northern

Respectfully submitted.


Hon. Frederick W. A. BLAY
1st Deputy Speaker & Chairman
Appointments Committee


Frederick K. NUTSUGAH
Clerk, Appointments Committee
 1st February 2005