

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

**SEVENTEENTH REPORT OF THE
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE ON**

**THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINATION FOR
MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENT**

30TH MAY, 2008

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 Hon. Mr. F. K. Owusu-Adjapong, for appointment as **Minister** of Energy.
- 1.2 In accordance with Order 172 (2) of the Standing Orders, the Speaker referred the nomination to the Appointments Committee for consideration and report on 19th of march 2008.

2.0 Procedure

After the referral, the Committee published the nomination in the mass media in accordance with Order 172 (3) and formally invited written memoranda from the general public on the suitability, conduct, experience and capability of the nominee.

On appearing before the Committee during public hearing, the nominee took an oath and answered questions on pertinent issues relevant to his record of public office and the position for which he has been nominated.

3.0 Reference Documents

During its deliberations the Committee was guided by the following documents:

- i. the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana

4.0 OBSERVATIONS

4.1 Hon. Mr. F. K. Owusu-Adjapong - Minister of Energy, designate

4.1.1 Resume

Mr. F. K. Owusu Adjapong is currently a Member of Parliament for Akim Swedru. He holds a BSc degree in Land Economy from KNUST in Kumasi in 1970 and a Diploma from the Institute of Housing

Studies in Rotterdam, Netherlands, in 1971 as well as a MSc in Urban Land Appraisal, Reading University, England in September 1973.

He holds LLB (Hons) from the University of Ghana and BL from the Ghana School of Law. He has served in various capacities as Member of Parliament, Minister of State, Member, Chairman and President of various Associations and Institutions such as Ghana Institution of Surveyors, Ghana Bar Association, among others

4.1.2 Oil Exploration in Ghana

Mr. Felix Owusu-Adjapong who is the immediate past Majority Leader and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, expressed his views on the issue of oil finds and whether it would be a 'blessing or a curse' to the nation. He told the Committee that the country could benefit from the oil production if measures are put in place to manage it. The under listed he said are identifiable areas which must be considered to achieve that objective. These are:

- i. Proper management of production;
- ii. Proper management of Revenue;
- iii. Environmental Management;
- iv. Management of security.

The nominee told the Committee that to the best of his knowledge the Ministry is preparing some policy documents to avoid clashes with multinationals corporations and ensure full participation of Ghanaians in the oil find. He however urged Parliament to put in maximum effort to ensure that the necessary legislation is passed to maximize profit. According to him lessons from countries with best practices in that regard must not be ignored, for instance, Norway. He also noted that the agricultural sector must not be neglected in spite of the discovery.

4.1.3 Rural Electrification Projects

In response to concerns raised on abandoned rural electrification projects, the nominee told the Committee that when given the nod he would ascertain the facts of the matter and ensure that appropriate measures are employed to speed the process to achieve desired results. He acknowledged governments support for rural electrification and would work hard to ensure its realization.

4.1.4 Energy Production

The nominee who is also a Member of Parliament (MP) for Akim Swedru responded to concerns raised on how energy production in the country could be improved to avert future energy crises. He suggested that other sources of energy like wind mill, solar energy and nuclear energy must be explored in addition the Hydro and thermal energy currently available. He informed the Committee that efforts would be made to access various energy potential in Ghana to have continuous energy supply in the country. He also told the Committee that given the nod he would challenge local engineers to explore less expensive ways for production of energy.

4.1.5 Presidential Ambitions

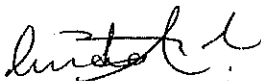
The nominee in reaction to a question on whether he still harbours Presidential ambitions in view of his unsuccessful bid in the primaries of his party, he told the Committee that the issue does not arise anymore.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Having fully met the requirements of the Constitution and creditably discharged himself before Members, the Committee hereby recommends his nomination, by consensus, to this Honourable House for approval.



Hon. Frederick W. A. Blay
1st Deputy Speaker and Chairman,
Appointments Committee



Linda Gyekye Boadu
Clerk to the Committee

30th May 2008