

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

**TWENTIETH REPORT OF THE
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

ON

**MINISTERIAL/DEPUTY MINISTERIAL
NOMINATIONS**

6TH MAY 2003

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Pursuant to Article 78 (1) and 79 (1) of the Constitution, His Excellency the President communicated to Parliament his nomination of the following persons for appointment to the positions indicated against their names.

- i. **Hon. Nana Akomea** - Minister Designate for Information
- ii. **Mr. P. Ambrose Dery** - Deputy Minister Designate for Justice & Deputy Attorney General
- iii. **Mr. Charles Bintin Binipom** - Deputy Minister Designate for Northern Region
- iv. **Dr. Anthony Akoto Osei** - Deputy Minister Designate, Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning
- v. **Dr. (Mrs.) Angela L. Ofori Atta** - Deputy Minister Designate for Manpower Development & Employment
- vi. **Mr. Andrews A. Awuni** - Deputy Minister Designate for Information
- vii. **Hon. (Dr.) C. Y. Brempong-Yeboah** - Dep. Minister Designate for Works & Housing
- viii. **Mrs. Mercy Bampo Ado** - Deputy Minister Designate, Office of the President
- ix. **Hon. Ignatius Kofi Poku-Adusei** - Deputy Minister Designate for Women & Children Affairs

- x. **Mr. David Gyewu** - Deputy Minister Designate for Communications & Tech.
- xi. **Hon. Emmanuel Adjei Boye** - Deputy Minister Designate for Roads and Highways

1.2 In accordance with Order 172 (2) of the Standing Orders, the Speaker referred the nominations to the Appointments Committee on 28th March and 15th April 2003 for consideration and report.

1.3 In order to expedite the approval process of the House, the Committee interrupted the recess of its Hon. Members to hold public hearings in accordance with Order 172 (4) on April 10, 24, 25 and 30, 2003 to consider the nominees and hereby reports as follows.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

1. Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, 1992
2. Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana

3.0 PROCEDURE ADOPTED

In accordance with Order 172 (3), the nominations were published in the mass media to inform the general public and to invite their views in the form of written memoranda on the suitability, experience and capability of the nominees for the various positions.

On appearing before the Committee, the nominees testified on oath and answered questions on pertinent issues relevant to the positions that they have been nominated for.

4.0 OBSERVATIONS

4.1 NANA AKOMEA - MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR INFORMATION

4.1.1 Resume

The nominee is the Member of Parliament for Okaikoi South Constituency in the Accra metropolis and Deputy Minister for Tourism. He holds Graduate Diplomas in Communications from the University of Ghana and in Development Studies from Cambridge University, U. K. He is single.

4.1.2 Relevance of the Ministry of Information

Nana Akomea disagreed with the view that the existence of the Ministry of Information is currently anachronistic. He argued that Government generate the most news in the country and its mandate imposes an obligation on it to inform the general public on public policies and activities and thereby create opportunities for popular participation in governance. The nominee said, on the contrary, the Ministry's existence can become anachronistic if it is reduced to a mere propaganda machinery of government in view of the plurality of media.

4.1.3 Freedom of Information Bill

Nana Akomea told the Committee that the right of citizens to information is beyond debate. He expressed support for the freedom of Information Bill, which he believed, would further strengthen the nations constitutional democracy.

The nominee said his vision for the Ministry of Information would be to achieve positive image for the government and the state through the release of credible, reliable and timely information that can increase national productivity.

4.1.4 Regulation of the Internet

Nana Akomea observed that, like any other medium for the dissemination of Information, the Internet has a high proclivity of abuse and misuse. He would therefore institute measures to neutralize the effect of negative images on users in the country.

4.2 PARTICK AMBROSE DERY - DEPUTY MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR JUSTICE & DEP. ATTORNEY GEN.

4.2.1 Resume

He is a private Legal Practitioner of twenty years standing and a Senior Solicitor at Dery & Co. He is the President of the Upper East Regional Branch of the Ghana Bar Association. He is a graduate of the Ghana School of Law and the University of Ghana. He is married and blessed with one child.

4.2.2 De-linking the Attorney General from Minister of Justice

In response to a suggestion to de-link the Attorney General's role from that of the Minister of Justice in order to insulate the former from political influences, Mr. Dery said de-linking the two roles is "technically compliant but practically difficult". He explained that the Attorney General is a technical person who should give objective legal advice to government, whilst the Minister of Justice is charged with advancing justice in the country. He said that since there are merits and demerits in both scenarios, the matter need to be properly considered before a decision is made. Having said that, his personal opinion was that as long as the linkage is not unconstitutional, it is the prerogative of the President to do as would facilitate the execution of his mandate.

4.2.3 Capital Punishment

Mr. Dery told the Committee that although he is an advocate of "punishment for reform" he is not absolutely against capital punishment in special cases where proper opportunity has been given for an accused person to defend himself.

The nominee told the Committee that as an officer of the Court, he would work towards the advancement of justice at all times in whatever position he occupies.

Mr. Dery observed that he deems it a duty to serve his country in a public position as a personal sacrifice to the state.

4.3 MR. CHARLES BINTIN BINIPOM - DEPUTY MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR NORTHERN REGION

4.3.1 Resume

He is the District Chief Executive for Saboba/Chereponi in the Northern Region. He is a graduate of the Institute of Adult Education of the University of Ghana. He was a teacher at Saboba. He is married with three children.

4.3.2 Peace and Security

Mr. Binipom told the Committee that his biggest challenge would be to assist in finding solutions to the various ethnic, political and religious conflicts that have bedeviled the Northern Region and stifled its development. He said he would liaise with various organizations, traditional rulers, opinion leaders and youth groups to help in restoring peace and security to the region. He said he would promote dialogue and frequent interactions amongst the chiefs and various youth groups to foster cohesion.

4.3.3 Poverty and Conflicts

The nominee expressed the view that there is some linkage between widespread poverty and conflicts in the region. He noted that idleness among the youth especially during the dry season present opportunities for conflicts. Thus, Mr. Binipom suggested that some productive ventures should be put in place to engage the youth and occupy them during the dry season.

4.3.4 Size of the Northern Region

Commenting on the size of the region, Mr. Binipom said it was too large in terms of landmass, citing for instance from Bamboi to Chereponi. He agreed to a suggestion that the size makes it unwieldy and difficult to administer and welcomed its split into two to enhance administrative efficiency.

4.4 DR. ANTHONY AKOTO OSEI - DEPUTY MINISTER DESIGNATE, MINISTRY OF FINANCE & ECONOMIC PLANNING

4.4.1 Resume

He is the Special Advisor to the Minister of Finance and holds a Ph.D in Economics from Howard University, U. S. A. He had been a Research Fellow at the Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA) since 1995. He is married with three children.

4.4.2 Challenges facing the Economy

Dr. Osei told the Committee that lack of access to medium/long term credit for small-medium scale enterprises constitute one of the greatest challenges currently facing the national economy. According to him the country's economy would record some growth if this can be overcome.

4.4.3 Relations with the Breton Wood Institutions

The nominee observed that the country's difficulties with the Bretton Wood Institutions stem from the fact that we often approach them without adequate preparations. He told the Committee that their conditionalities are imposed on a country

only when the country has a programme with them. The nominee noted that if we can defend our programmes well, the imposition of conditionalities could be reduced. Dr. Osei held the view that dependence on such institutions is dangerous in view of the irregularity of their in-flows. He advocated the mobilization of resources internally as the most reliable path to development.

4.4.4 Tax System

Dr. Osei noted that a lot of loopholes exist in the country's tax system leading to revenue losses to the State. He said if these can be plucked, there would be no need to impose new taxes and that revenues from the current tax regime should be maximized before a consideration of new taxes. According to him, a lot more education needs to be done to win the confidence of taxpayers in the current tax regime.

4.5 DR. (MRS) ANGELA LAMENSDORF OFORI-ATTA - DEP. MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR MANPOWER DEVT. & EMPLOYMENT

4.5.1 Resume

She is a Lecturer in Clinical Psychology at the University of Ghana Medical School with a Ph D. from the University of British Columbia, Canada. She has published in various academic journals. She is married with three children.

4.6.2 Relevance of Organised Labour

Dr. (Mrs.) Ofori-Atta expressed the view that organised labour is still relevant in employer-labour relations in spite of the proliferation of ICTs in the global labour market. She noted that workers need a voice in the country's governance process and organised labour serves this purpose.

Dr. Ofori-Atta observed that the minimum wage should be made enforceable through legislation so that it can make real impact on the lives of workers especially in the informal sector.

4.5.3 Usefulness Of Nominee's Expertise

On the usefulness of her expertise to the Ministry, Dr. Ofori-Atta said as one who studies human behaviour and tinkers with interventions that change human behaviour, her skills would be particularly helpful in negotiations on labour issues and also in planning human resource development for the future.

4.6 MR. ANDREWS ABAMBILE AWUNI - DEPUTY MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR INFORMATION

4.6.1 Resume

He is a Special Assistant at the Office of the Vice President in charge of Public Relations. He is a graduate of the Ghana Institute of Journalism and the National Institute of Banking Management in India. He was the Head of Public Relations at the National Investment Bank until 2001. He is married.

4.6.2 Assessment of the Media

Mr. Awuni told the Committee that the multiplicity of media organisations both in the print and electronic industry has remarkably promoted official transparency. He observed that although mistakes have been made, these are fewer than the benefits of the free media. He stressed that muzzling the media in any way would not be appropriate. Rather, the media should be allowed to learn from their own mistakes by making them appreciate the harm they cause to the people they report on.

4.6.3 Privatisation of State Media and Relevance of the GNA

Mr. Awuni expressed the view that a decision to privatise the state-owned media must be made upon an examination of their establishment objectives to determine whether these are still relevant for national cohesion or not.

On the Ghana News Agency (GNA), the nominee held the view that it is still very relevant on account of the market potential for its news from various parts of the country. According to Mr. Awuni, what needs to be done is a restructuring to meet the challenges of the current global ICT environment.

4.7 DR. CHARLES YAW BREMPONG-YEBOAH - DEP. MIN. DESIGNATE FOR WORKS & HOUSING

4.7.1 Resume

He is the Member of Parliament for Atiwa Constituency in the Easter Region. He holds an MSc. and D. Agr. (Agronomy) from

the Nagoya University in Japan. He was Deputy General Manager of Kanematsu Corporation in charge of Japanese Grant/Aid Projects until December 2000. He also lectured at the Agriculture Faculty of the University of Ghana from 1986 to 1993. He is married with three daughters.

4.7.2 Construction Of Low Cost Houses

Dr. Brempong-Yeboah told the Committee that he would seek to introduce some technology that is available elsewhere into the real estate industry in the country to reduce the cost of constructing houses to make them affordable for the broad majority of Ghanaians. He said that government should provide the enabling environment for the private sector to deliver affordable houses.

4.7.3 Private Sector Participation In Water Supply

The nominee expressed support for the proposed private sector participation in the provision of water. According to him, government should concentrate on the provision of an investor friendly environment in order to attract the needed investments in water supply. In his view, what is required is education of the public to appreciate the current difficulties facing the sector in comparison to the benefits of private investments.

4.8 MRS. MERCY BAMPO ADDO -- DEPUTY MINISTER DESIGNATE, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

4.8.1 Resume

The nominee is the Acting Registrar of the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA). She is a graduate of the University of Ghana with a B. A. (Hons) in history and a Graduate Diploma in Journalism and Communications. She is married and has five children.

4.8.2 Skills and Competence

Mrs. Bampo Addo told the Committee that the President's Office is the highest executive office in the land and therefore requires special skills and characteristics to manage it. These skills include maturity, circumspection, information management and teamwork. According to the nominee, she has these skills and thus qualified for the position.

4.8.3 Number Of Ministers/Deputy Ministers

The nominee agreed that the number of Ministers/Deputy Ministers have raised concerns and explained that new demands in the political context have necessitated the creation of new ministries and the appointment of Ministers thereof. She cited women issues, NEPAD, ICTs and AGOA as examples of some emerging issues that the government must sufficiently respond to.

4.8.4 Marital Rape

On her views on the proposed Domestic Violence Bill and the question of marital rape, in particular, Mrs. Bampo Addo said she agreed that rape existed in marriages. According to her if human rights are to be respected then there was nothing wrong with extending such rights to the bedroom.

4.9 HON. IGNATIUS KOFI POKU ADUSEI - DEPUTY MIN. DESIGNATED FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN AFFAIRS

4.9.1 Resume

He is the Member of Parliament for Bekwai Constituency in the Ashanti Region. He holds a B.A. in Social Science and a Diploma in Estate Management from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi. He is married with two children.

4.9.2 Child Labour and Child Trafficking

Hon. Poku Adusei told the Committee that he would support the implementation of policies that would arrest the increasing incidence of child labour and child trafficking across the country. He observed that the poverty, especially among women, has resulted in their inability to cater for their children hence the high incidence of the two phenomena. The nominee pledge to work hard to empower women economically as a measure to address the problems.

4.9.3 Polygamy and Wife-Battering

Hon. Poku Adusei expressed the view that polygamy is unfair to women considering the stress and strains it imposes on both wife and husband. He also expressed abhorrence for wife battering and called for sustained public education to check them.

4.10 MR. DAVID GYEWU – DEPUTY MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

4.10.1 Resume

The nominee is a Special Assistant at IT Policy Unit of the Office of the President. He holds an MSC. in Information Systems Design and Management from Kingston University. He was a freelance consultant in I.T. Strategy Definition and business development until 2001. He is single.

4.10.2 Liberalisation Of Telecommunication Industry

Mr. Gyewu expressed support for the liberalization of the telecommunications industry as a well-intended policy to introduce competition amongst operators and thereby enhance the quality of service. He was of the view that licensing more operators in the telephony industry would increase the penetration rate and make the facility available to many more Ghanaians.

The nominee noted that the cost of phone calls either internally or internationally in Ghana is among the highest in West Africa.

He suggested the review of existing regulatory framework to enforce fair play amongst the operators.

4.10.3 Inter-Connectivity

The nominee attributed the inter-connectivity difficulties between the various operators to congestion resulting from insufficient switches to handle the huge volume of traffic. He also mentioned unhealthy rivalry amongst operators as another reason. He suggested the ingestion of more capital to enable operators to expand their capacities. Mr. Gyewu pledged to push as forcefully as possible to resolve the interconnectivity difficulties.

4.11 HON. EMMANUEL ADJEI BOYE - DEPUTY MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR ROADS & HIGHWAYS

4.11.1 Resume

He is the Member of Parliament for Krowor Constituency in the Accra Metropolis. He has Masters Degrees in Electrical Engineering and in Finance. Until his election to Parliament, he was the Managing Director of Mackays Electronics and Electrical Ltd. He is married with three children.

4.11.2 Tolling Of Roads

Hon. Adjei Boye agreed to a suggestion that tolling of roads in the country constitutes a significant means of generating funds for road maintenance and expansion. He told the Committee that he would recommend the tolling of more

roads in order to raise funds internally for the improvement of the conditions of our roads.

4.11.3 Closing the Disparity Between Urban/ Rural Roads

The nominee told the Committee that his vision for roads in the rural areas is to assist in developing integrated road projects that would reduce the disparity between road networks in the urban and rural areas so as to facilitate the movement of farm produce to the urban market centres.

4.11.4 Appointment Of MPs as Ministers

On the question of appointment of MPs as Ministers, the nominee was of the opinion that although the practice has an adverse impact on the work of this Honourable House, it is equally important to appreciate that being a Minister affords one the opportunity to know the work of the Ministry and thereby articulate issues clearly from a well informed perspective.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

The foregoing observations indicate that the Committee has carefully scrutinised the all the nominees mentioned in paragraph 1.1 and is satisfied with their performance.

Consequently, the Committee recommends, by consensus, all the eleven (11) nominees to this Honourable House for approval and subsequent appointment.

Respectfully submitted.



**HON. F. W. A. BLAY
1st DEP. SPEAKER &
CHAIRMAN, APPOINTMENT'S
COMMITTEE**



**FREDERICK K. NUTSUGAH
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**

6th May 2003