

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

**FOURTH REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS
COMMITTEE**

ON

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

4th March, 2005

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to article 78 (1) of the Constitution, His Excellency the President communicated to Parliament, for prior approval, his nomination of ~~the~~ four persons for appointment as Ministers as follows:

- i. Mr. Kwadwo Mpiani - Minister designate for Presidential Affairs
- ii. Hon. Dr. Kofi Konadu Apraku - Minister of State designate, Ministry of Regional Cooperation & NEPAD
- iii. Hon. Dr. Paa Kwesi Nduom - Minister of State designate, Public Sector Reforms
- iv. Ms. Elizabeth Ohene - Minister of State designate, Ministry of Education & Sports

1.1 In accordance with Order 172 (2) of the Standing Orders, the Speaker referred the nominations to the Appointments Committee on 17th February, 2005 for consideration and report.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee made reference to the under-listed documents during its deliberations;

- i. Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, 1992
- ii. Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana
- iii. First Report of the Appointments Committee on the President's Nominations for Ministerial Appointments (1st February, 2005).

3.0 PROCEDURE

Upon the referral, the Committee held preliminary discussions on the nominations and agreed on the procedure to apply. The Committee then published the nominations 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 nominees. In response, one memorandum was officially received by the Committee in respect of one of the nominees.

On appearing before the Committee, the nominees took an oath and answered questions on pertinent issues relevant to their record of public office and the positions for which they have been nominated. Where necessary, a nominee's reactions were also sought on issues raised in memoranda received, if any.

Finally, in deciding on the nomination, the Committee was guided by the provisions of article 94 of the Constitution.

4.0 OBSERVATIONS

4.1 Mr. Kwadwo Mpiani - Minister-designate for Presidential Affairs

The nominee, who is currently the Chief of Staff at the Presidency, told the Committee that it is the intention of H. E., President Kufuor to run a Presidency that is more open and accountable to the people through Parliament. He explained that as Chief of Staff, he was not directly answerable to Parliament on matters concerning the Presidency hence the President's intention to appoint him Minister for Presidential Affairs. The nominee told the Committee that his role as Minister for Presidential Affairs would be to administer the Presidency and coordinate the activities of the various Ministers in addition to performing the functions of Chief of Staff.

On his achievements so far, Mr. Kwadwo Mpiani, who was a Member of Parliament in the Third Republic, told the Committee that he contributed to the policy and programmes of the NPP Government in its first term and assured the Committee that he would continue to contribute to the implementation of the Government's programmes

under Positive Change II. He told the Committee that, even though he is involved in the preparation of the budget estimates of agencies under General Government Machinery (GGM), it is not his duty to determine the ceiling of allocations but the duty of the Ministry of Finance based on expected revenue inflows. He stated that the provision in the budget for GGM was not too much considering the number of agencies involved.

In response to concerns raised on the size of the government, the nominee stressed that the matter has been explained by President Kufuor who is the appointing authority. He expressed the view that the number of ministers and deputy ministers so far was "right". He stated that he had not come across any evidence of any former Minister in the NDC Government who had stolen any state vehicle.

The Committee recommends his nomination to this House, by consensus, for approval.

**4.2 Hon. Dr. Kofi K. Apraku - Minister-designate,
Ministry of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD**

Hon. Dr. Kofi Konadu Apraku noted that the NEPAD concept was very essential for Africa's renaissance taking considering our past and where we want to go. He stated that NEPAD embodies principles that, if implemented, can provide the impetus for our development and Ghana's association with it would yield some benefits specific areas of agricultural development, road infrastructure, information and communication technology projects, debt relief, etc.

The nominee, who is also the MP for Offinso North, told the Committee that the introduction of the Eco (common ECOWAS currency) scheduled for July 1, 2005 cannot come into effect because although Ghana, for instance, has met three out of the four convergence criteria set out, many Member-States of ECOWAS are yet to meet all the convergence criteria especially the achievement of single digit inflation rate. He stressed that the volume of trade between Africa and the European Union was so high that it was necessary to negotiate the Preferential Trade Agreements (PTA) with the EU to ensure fair trade. He assured the Committee to take the necessary steps to keep Parliament abreast with the activities of his Ministry.

He denied any involvement in allegations of embezzlement at the Free Zone Secretariat during his tenure as Minister of Trade and Industry. Furthermore, he explained that it was a case of expenditure without authorization for which he ordered an investigation by the SFO based on which charges have been preferred against two persons. When questioned about his presidential ambition, he replied that "my specific agenda is to strive to be the best Minister that I can be; if there is any opportunity in future I will leave that to God".

The Committee recommends his nomination to this House by consensus for approval.

**4.3 Hon. Dr. Paa Kwesi Nduom - Minister-designate for
Public Sector Reforms**

Hon. Dr. Paa Kwesi Nduom, MP for Komenda/Edina/Eguafo/Abrem, justified public sector reforms as necessary in order to have the right people, well trained and adequately equipped to improve on the service delivery capacity of the public sector. He observed that the fact that we have all been worried at one point or the other about service delivery in the public sector whereas public servants have also been unhappy about their own capacity to deliver justifies the creation of his ministry to make appropriate recommendations to Government. He assured the Committee to engage in wide consultations to ensure that his recommendations achieved the desired effect.

On the (Strategic Reserve Plant SRP), the nominee who was the Minister of Energy, said it was brought into the country to supplement energy production at a time when the Akosombo Dam could not function fully but was used only for a short period hence its return to the owners; General Electric. He denied any knowledge of the living conditions or circumstances surrounding the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of VRA and where he currently lives. When asked about an arrangement under which the Coconut Groove Regency Hotel, which is owned by the nominee, has got the ECG Company Ltd. to stagger payment for its services to the Hotel for six years, Hon. Dr. Nduom responded that he was not aware of any such arrangement. He explained that since becoming a Minister of State, the Hotel has been entrusted to trustees in compliance with the laws of the Republic.

On some perceived contradictions in the beliefs of the CPP to which the nominee belongs and that of the ruling NPP on property ownership, Hon. Dr. Nduom said the majority of our population is poor and so the issue is how to tackle the problems of the poor and disadvantaged in society and that's what President Kufuor's administration has been engaged in. He expressed the view that all over the world political parties collaborate for elections and therefore saw nothing wrong with his collaboration with the NPP during the last elections.

The Committee recommends his nomination by consensus to the House for approval.

**4.4 Ms. Elizabeth Ohene - Minister of State-designate,
Ministry of Education and Sports**

Ms. Elizabeth Ohene spoke on her achievements as Minister of State in charge of Tertiary Education noting that access to education has been expanded along with educational infrastructure. She was however, quick to point out that she could not take credit for any particular accomplishment during the period since it was team work with other Ministers in the Ministry. She noted that there was no fight for turf among the ministers at the Ministry since there was so much work such as speech days, school infrastructure development, enrolment matters etc. to occupy each person.

On the question of study leave for teachers, the nominee said over 15,000 teachers applied for the facility but obviously all could not be approved; 3000 was therefore approved and this was very equitably distributed among the various categories applicants across the country. She stressed that teachers could avail themselves of other facilities like the distance learning programmes to improve upon their capacity. She intimated that the Ministry was finalizing work on the Students' Loan Trust for submission to Parliament for consideration.

The Committee recommends her nomination by consensus for approval by this House.


5.0 CONCLUSION and RECOMMENDATIONS


The Committee has dutifully performed its function under the Standing Orders of the House and in accordance with the Constitution in respect of the nominees in question, namely:

- i. Mr. Kwadwo Mpiani - Minister designate for Presidential Affairs
- ii. Hon. Dr. Kofi Konadu Apraku - Minister of State designate, Ministry of Regional Cooperation & NEPAD
- iii. Hon. Dr. Paa Kwesi Nduom - Minister of State designate, Public Sector Reforms
- iv. Ms. Elizabeth Ohene - Minister of State designate, Ministry of Education & Sports

Having fully met the requirements of the Constitution therefore, the Committee hereby recommends their nomination, by consensus, to this Honourable House for approval.

Respectfully submitted.


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


Frederick K. NUTSUGAH
Clerk to the Committee
4th March, 2005.