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

THIRTY-FOURTH REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

ON

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS AS MINISTERS AND REGIONAL MINISTERS

MAY, 2024

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On Wednesday 14th February, 2024, H.E. the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, in accordance with Articles 78(1) and 256(1) of the 1992 Constitution, communicated to Parliament, the nomination of the following persons for appointment as Ministers and Regional Ministers:

i.	Hon Andrew Kofi Egyapa Mercer	Minister-designate for the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture
ii.	Hon Lydia Seyram Alhassan	Minister-designate for the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources
iii.	Hon Martin Adjei-Mensah Korsah	Minister-designate for the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development
iv.	Hon Ophelia Mensah Hayford	Minister-designate for the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation
v.	Hon Dakoa Newman	Minister-designate for the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection

vi.	Dr Bernard Okoe Boye	Minister-designate for the Ministry of Health
vii.	Hon Daniel Nii Kwartei Titus-Glover-	Minister-designate for the Greater Accra Region
viii.	Ms Fatimatu Abubakar	Minister-designate for the Ministry of Information
ix.	Mr Daniel Machator	Minister-designate for the Oti Region

The Rt. Hon Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 217 referred the nominees to the Appointments Committee for consideration and report.

2.0 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the under-listed documents during the consideration of the Nominees:

i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana,
ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament, and
iii. The Curriculum Vitae (CVs) of the Nominee

3.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE REFERRAL

Pursuant to Standing Order 217 (10), the names of the nominees were published in newspapers for the attention of the public. The publication also requested for Memoranda from the public in respect of the nominees. The Committee subsequently sought and obtained

Confidential Reports in respect of the nominees from the Ghana Police Service and the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB). The Committee also requested the nominee to submit Tax Status Reports from the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).

The Committee, thereafter, held a Public Hearing from 5th to 12th March, 2024 to consider the nominations. The nominees subscribed to the Witness Oath and proceeded to answer questions posed by Honourable Members. The nominees were asked questions relating to their Curriculum Vitae, eligibility, competences, issues of national concern and those pertaining to the office to which they have been nominated.

The Committee, after its deliberations, reports on the nominees as follows:

4.0 HON ANDREW KOFI EGYAPA MERCER

MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE

4.1 BACKGROUND

Hon Andrew Kofi Egyapa Mercer was born on 25th May, 1973 in Sekondi in the Western Region. He obtained his Common Entrance Examination Certificate from Chapel Hill Preparatory School in Takoradi in 1985. He had his Ordinary Level education from 1985 to 1990 and Advanced level education from 1991 to 1993 both at Adisadel College in Cape Coast.

The nominee had his tertiary education at the University of Ghana, Legon, from 1994 to 1998 and obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Study of Religions. He subsequently earned a

Bachelor of Arts in Law (LLB) in 2002 from the same university. The nominee continued to the Ghana School of Law, where he obtained his Professional Certificate in Law in 2002 and was called to the Bar in 2004. He has been a member of the Ghana Bar Association since 2004.

Hon Andrew Kofi Egyapa Mercer undertook National Service at the Ministry of Health from 1993 to 1994 and at the Ministry of Trade and Industry from 1998 to 1999 respectively. The nominee served as a Senior Associate for Acquah-Sampson & Associates law firm from 2004 to 2007. He was also the Assistant Manager and Deputy Manager in charge of legal affairs of the First Atlantic Merchant Bank Limited from 2007 to 2008 and from 2011 to 2012 respectively. The nominee subsequently became the Acting Head in charge of legal affairs of the First Atlantic Bank Limited from 2012 to 2013. He was the Lead Attorney and Chief Executive Officer of Mercer & Co Chambers from 2013 to 2021.

The nominee has been a Member of Parliament for the Sekondi Constituency since January 2017. Until his nomination, the nominee has been the Deputy Minister for Energy since 2021. He has been a Member of the Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs as well as Special Budget Committees since 2017.

The Nominee has attended several international conferences; 28th United Nations Conference of Parties (COP 28), Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 30th November to 13th December 2023; 6th General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance in New Delhi, India from 30th October to 1st November, 2023; Singapore International Energy

Week 2023 in Singapore from 22nd to 26th October 2023, African Oil Week, 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa from 9th to 13th October, 2023; Nigeria Energy Leadership Summit Lagos, Nigeria from 19th to 21st September, 2023; 2nd Unlocking Industries-Hydrogen in Africa Hamburg, Germany from 14th to 15th June, 2023; Namibian International Energy Conference 2023 Windhoek, Namibia from 25th to 27th April, 2023; Cera Week 2023 Houston, Texas USA from 6th to 10th March, 2023; Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 31st October to 3rd November, 2022.

The nominee's hobbies include soccer, golf, reading and travelling.

5.0 RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

MARINE DRIVE PROJECT

The nominee's attention was drawn to the seemingly stagnated status of a 241-acre Marine Drive Project initiated in 2016. He was informed that the project has been moved from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture to the Office of the President. In reacting to the concerns expressed, the nominee disagreed with the statement that the project has been halted. He informed the Committee that the Marine Drive Project is work in progress, and that, a consortium has been engaged and is currently undertaking preparatory works. He pledged to liaise with all the relevant stakeholders to fast-track the implementation of the project when given the nod as the new Sector Minister.

5.2. VISION FOR THE MINISTRY

In responding to a question on the legacy he intends to leave at his new Office, the nominee stated that the tourism sector is public sector

led and private sector driven. He added that quality client service is one of the most important factors to sustaining tourist turnovers. He promised to prioritise training of service providers, especially, in the hospitality sub-sector. In addition, he would promote the Creative Arts industry and put in place, a strategy to market Ghana above all countries.

5.3. STATUS OF FORTS AND CASTLES IN GHANA

The nominee, in sharing his opinion on the status of the forts and castles bequeathed to Ghana by the colonial masters, indicated that they offer huge potentials to boosting visitors turnover in Ghana. He acknowledged that investments have been made to improve facilities such as the washrooms to enhance the general outlook of the tourist sites. He however indicated that more needs to be done. He explained that a good communication strategy is needed to link persons who can trace their ancestral roots to Ghana. The nominee pledged to partner with relevant stakeholders to create the necessary environment to increase visitor traffic relating to Ghana's forts and castles.

5.4. NATIONAL CATHEDRAL PROJECT

In responding to a question which solicited the view of the nominee on the status of the National Cathedral project, he indicated that the project was intended to be executed in partnership with the faith-based organisations. He explained that the project has stalled because the faith-based organisations reneged on their financial obligations, and the Parliament of Ghana also failed to approve the financial request for the cathedral in the 2023 Budget. The nominee

added that the current state of the Cathedral is unpalatable, but has great potentials to generate income for the country when completed. He therefore appealed to Parliament to approve the future financial request for the cathedral as funds have already been invested in the project.

5.5. TOURISM AND JOB CREATION

In reacting to a question on the relationship between tourism and job creation, the nominee asserted that the potential of the tourism and the creative arts sub-sector to create jobs cannot be over emphasised. He however explained that the benefits of tourism and its incidental add-ons like job creation can only be accrued with the requisite investment in the industry. He reiterated that Government should create the necessary environment to attract private sector investment.

5.6. ANCIENT MOSQUES

The nominee's attention was drawn to the deterioration of ancient mosques scattered around many parts of the country. The nominee explained that those facilities may be privately owned and did not fall under the purview of the Museums and Monuments Board. He however promised to make enquires that would enable him take appropriate decision on the facilities.

5.7. HIGH COST OF DOING BUSINESS IN THE HOSPITALITY SUB-SECTOR

Sharing in the sentiments of the Committee on the high cost of doing business in the hospitality sub-sector, the nominee indicated that the

high cost emanates from a multiplicity of regulatory agencies. He promised to lead the process of collaborating with relevant stakeholders to harmonise the various regulations and taxes in order to make the hospitality industry competitive.

5.8 INTERNALLY GENERATED FUNDS (IGF)

In response to the assertion of non-release of internally generated funds (IGF) intended for the Ghana School of Languages in the 2023 fiscal year, the nominee expressed surprise. He explained that the Agency retains its approved percentage of IGF and returns the rest to chest. He however pledged to investigate the assertion and resolve it when given the nod.

5.9 PROMOTION OF DOMESTIC TOURISM

Regarding what the nominee would do to boost domestic tourism drawing lessons from what happened during the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Hon Minister-designate, indicated that his initial enquiry revealed that some work has already been initiated by the Ministry in that regard. He stated that the Ministry in partnership with some stakeholders like City FM has dedicated the month of February and March to promoting domestic tourism. He encouraged Ghanaians to patronise made in Ghana items during the period. He pledged to review the initiatives already made and where possible, scale them up to galvanise the interest of more Ghanaians to patronise domestic tourism.

5.10 EFFECT OF HUMAN SEXUAL RIGHTS AND FAMILY VALUES BILL ON THE TOURISM POTENTIALS IN GHANA

In response to the perceived impact of the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill on tourism in Ghana, the nominee indicated that he was yet to ascertain the impact of the Bill on the tourism sector. He however, explained that the passage of the Bill could either inure to the benefit of the country, or negatively affect visitor-traffic. In his view, persons who feel alienated would refrain from entering the country while others who align with the passage of the Bill would be encouraged to visit Ghana.

5.11 PROMOTING FUNERAL TOURISM IN GHANA

The nominee indicated that funerals have a high potential of increasing the tourism potentials in Ghana. In his view, funerals are solemn occasions and portray Ghana's rich culture and traditions. According to the nominee however, rituals and ceremonies at funeral events could be very attractive to tourists, especially, foreigners who visit Ghana. It may also be an opportunity to showcase kente, beads, and other ornaments that are peculiar to Ghana. In his opinion, if well explored, it would positively affect the aviation and hospitality sectors.

5.12 POWER SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS

Commenting on the current energy situation in the country, the nominee affirmed that, the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) has not been operating optimally, and that has affected other service providers in the value chain. He, however, asserted that the Government has managed to keep the lights on.

On whether the Power Distribution Services (PDS) Agreement with the Government of Ghana, led to a loss of money to the state, the nominee made a disclaimer that he was not associated to the agreement.

5.13 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends to the House by **CONSENSUS** the approval of the nomination of **HON ANDREW KOFI EGYAPA MERCER** as Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture.

6.0 HON LYDIA SEYRAM ALHASSAN

MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF SANITATION AND WATER RESOURCES

6.1 BACKGROUND

Hon Lydia Seyram Alhassan was born on 31st January, 1970 in Accra. She comes from Atiavi, a town located in the Volta Region. The nominee started her basic education at Bethel Academy Preparatory School in Lartebiokoshie from 1973 to 1981 and continued to Ave Dakpa RC School in Akatsi North from 1981 to 1984. She attended College Protestant de Lome, in Togo in from 1985 to 1988. She obtained her Ordinary Level Certificate as a private candidate in 1989.

The nominee then proceeded to the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) where she obtained a Certificate in Administration and Management and Human Resource Management from 2001 and 2002 respectively.

She also obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises (SEM) Management at GIMPA from 2003 to 2006. The nominee later obtained an Executive Master of Business Administration in Marketing from the University of Ghana, Legon in 2018. She was granted a Certificate of Exemption for her mandatory service by the National Service Scheme in 2020.

Hon Lydia Seyram Alhassan served as a Board Member of the Minerals Commission from 2017 to 2020 and has been a Board Member of the Energy Commission since August 2021. She was the Chief Executive

Officer for Lymens Medical Supplies Limited from 1994 to 2019 but currently plays an advisory role to the company. Hon Lydia Seyram Alhassan became a Member of Parliament for the Ayawaso West Wuogon Constituency in 2019 following the demise of Hon Emmanuel Kwabena Kyeremateng Agyarko, the then lawmaker for the Constituency. The nominee is a Member of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health, and Mines and Energy respectively.

Hon Lydia Seyram Alhassan has served in various leadership positions including First Deputy Majority Whip of the 8th Parliament from 2021 to 2024, Vice Chairperson of Pharmaceuticals Importers and Wholesalers Association of Ghana from 2016 to 2019, President of Accra Premier Lions Club from 2005 to 2016, and Regional Chairperson for Zone 161 Lions Club from 2014 to 2015. She has been an Executive Member of the Chamber of Pharmacy Ghana.

The nominee has participated in numerous workshops and conferences including the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference by CPA Canada Region in Halifax Canada from 20th to 26th August 2022, Project Development for Power and Renewable Energy Seminar by International Law Institute in Washington D.C from 18th to 29th April 2022, Authentic Leadership: Courage, Coaching & Ethics by Double Tree by Hilton in Amsterdam from 9th to 13th December 2019.

The nominee achieved the Personality of the Year, and Woman of Excellence award from Ghana Pharma in 2021 and 2017, respectively.

The nominee's hobbies include reading, travelling and cooking.

6.2 RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

6.3 VISION FOR THE MINISTRY

In response to what her vision was for the Ministry to which she has been nominated, the nominee stated that her prerogative is to assist the President attain his vision for the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources which is to provide sustainable water and make Accra the cleanest city in Africa.

According to her, her vision will align with the ongoing projects of the Ministry which include the Water Supply Improvement Project (WSIP), UNICEF-Assisted WASH Project and Rural Water Utilization project (RWUP) to ensure their completion.

The nominee called on all to rally behind the President's vision of keeping Accra, and Ghana Clean for the well-being of all Ghanaians. She further indicated that the "keeping Ghana clean programme" is a process and urged all Ghanaians to join the noble course in keeping the markets, workplaces, communities and the environment clean.

6.4 COMPLETION OF THE DAMONGO WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

The nominee when asked what she intends to do to continue the Damongo Water Supply Project which was commissioned by the previous Government, responded that Government is working to secure funds from Development Partners for the completion of the water supply project. She explained that the project was aimed at meeting the demand of water for the people of Damongo and its surrounding communities. She added that Government is working around the clock to ensure the completion of the project and other water projects. The nominee also pledged to prioritise the construction

of mechanised boreholes for continuous access to sustainable water in the interim while Government works toward securing funds to complete all water projects across the country.

6.5 INCIDENT AT AYAWASO WEST WOUGON CONSTITUNECY DURING THE 2019 BYE-ELECTION

When asked whether she had any regrets in relation to the unfortunate incident that transpired during the 2019 bye-election at La–Bawaleshi in the Ayawaso West Wougon Constituency. The nominee intimated that the incident was not only unfortunate but regrettable. She was, however, glad that she was been given the opportunity to bring closure to the matter.

Hon Lydia Seyram Alhassan emphasised that violence during and after election does not augur well for a country's democracy, and that she never intended to win the election through violence, and was nowhere near the incident.

According to the nominee, she was rather focused on winning the election to support the voiceless and under privileged in her Constituency. She added that no Member of Parliament should experience election-related violence in the bid to represent the good people of a constituency.

6.6 ROLE AS FIRST DEPUTY WHIP

The nominee informed the Committee that her role as the First Deputy Whip before her nomination to the Position of Minister of Water and Sanitation is one she takes pride in. According to her, she performed effectively on her mandate by assisting the Chief Whip to facilitate welfare activities of the Majority Caucus.

She explained that she was also in charge of women affairs in her caucus and liaised with the Minority Whip to ensure the overall welfare of all the women in Parliament.

6.7 CLEAN GHANA SANITATION PROJECT

The nominee, when asked about how she would rate the Ministry with regards to making Accra the cleanest city in Africa, stated that the Ministry has made a lot of effort with regards to the provision of infrastructure and resources to help improve sanitation in Accra, but the attitude of Ghanaians towards sanitation makes the work of the Ministry difficult.

She reiterated her wish to continue with the vision of making Accra the cleanest city in Africa.

6.8 RETENTION OF TWO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AT THE COMMUNITY WATER AND SANITATION AGENCY

When the Committee inquired about what her stance was on the current retention of two CEOs by the President at the Community Water and Sanitation Agency, she indicated that she cannot question the President on the reasons for remunerating two CEOs.

6.11 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends to the House by **CONSENSUS** the approval of the nomination of **HON LYDIA SEYRAM ALHASSAN** as as Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources.

7.0 HON MARTIN ADJEI-MENSAH KORSAH

MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DECENTRALISATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

7.1 BACKGROUND

Hon Martin Adjei-Mensah Korsah was born on 12th April, 1978, in Techiman in the Bono East Region. He started primary school at Ameyaw L/A Primary School in Techiman from 1984 to 1989 and completed at the Achimota Primary and Junior High School, obtaining his Basic Education Certificate (B.E.C.E) in 1995. He proceeded to Achimota School for his secondary education and obtained his Senior Secondary Certificate in 1998. The Nominee received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Ghana in 2005. Hon Korsah was awarded a Master of Arts Degree in Political and International Relations from Nottingham University in the United Kingdom in 2007.

The nominee undertook the mandatory national service as a Special Assistant to the Minister in charge of the President's speeches and communique at the Office of the President from 2005 to 2006. He worked as the Country Director of Agora Group Ghana from 2007 to 2017. During the same period, he worked as the National Coordinator of the National Revenue Enhancement Support Programme (NREST) under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP) and Revenue Agencies Governing Board (RAGB) from 2007 to 2009. From 2009 to 2011, the nominee served as Research Assistant to H.E. President Nana Akufo-Addo at the time when he was the Presidential Candidate for the New Patriotic Party (NPP). He was also the Director in charge of Research and Elections for the NPP from 2011 to 2017 and

then served as the Deputy Minister in charge of Regional Reorganisation and Development from 2017 to 2021.

Hon Adjei-Mensah Korsah is currently the Member of Parliament for Techiman South Constituency in the Bono East Region. He served on the Parliamentary Select Committee on Foreign Affairs from 2021 to 2023 and is currently a Member of the Employment, Social Welfare & State Enterprises, and House Committees. The Nominee also served as Deputy Minister responsible for Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development from April 2021 to February 2024. He has been the Vice President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly since 2022.

Regarding leadership positions occupied, the Nominee was the President of the Civic Education Club in Achimota School from 1996 to 1997; and Sanctions Prefect in Achimota School from 1997 to 1998. At the University of Ghana, the Nominee served as President of the Tertiary Students Confederacy (TESCON) from 2004 to 2005. He served as a Member on Boards and Committees including NREST Advisory and Management Boards from 2006 to 2009; Agyeiwaa Hotel Limited in Techiman from 2009 to 2017; the National Elections Reform Committee of the NPP from 2013 to 2014; the National Transition Team from 2016 to 2017. Since 2009, Hon Adjei-Mensah Korsah has been the co-founding Director of the Ghana Institute of Public Policy Options (GIPPO), a non-profit making organisation. He has also been a Member of the National Youth Agency since 2021. The Nominee has also been the Chairman of Seabeige Ghana Limited and Dura TPL Ghana Limited since February 2024.

Hon Adjei-Mensah Korsah was a Member of the Inter-Party Advisory Committee (IPAC) from 2011 to 2017 and also partook in the review of the Constitutional Instrument (C.I.) in June 2015, as a Member of the Subsidiary Legislation Committee. He has participated in several conferences and workshops including the Asia Pacific/ Africa Conferences on IPE held in the United Kingdom in June 2007. He also attended the Electoral Reform Proposals Formulation workshop organised by the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) for political parties in Akosombo, in May 2013. He further partook in the observation of Elections in Nigeria and Togo in February and April 2015, respectively. Again, in April 2015, the nominee attended the International Democratic Union's conference on Strategies for winning elections by Centre-Right Parties in Germany. Hon Adjei-Mensah Korsah attended the 2nd Session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly in Kenya in June 2023. Hon Adjei-Mensah Korsah is a Christian and is married with four (4) children. His hobbies are reading and listening to music.

7.2 RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

7.3 LEGACY AT THE MINISTRY

When the Committee asked what legacy the nominee would leave at the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development having regard to the short period he would serve as a Minister, he stated that it takes only a decision to make great impact anywhere and that he envisions to make great impact at the Ministry.

According to him, he is fortunate to take over from a Minister who worked hard and made an impact at the Ministry. He promised to build upon what has already been achieved and leave a legacy for the country.

7.4 MITIGATION OF FLOODS AND DROUGHTS IN GREATER ACCRA

When the nominee was asked how he would control the perineal flooding which engulfs the city of Accra during the rainy season, he stated that the World Bank Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development Project (GARID) which is a five-year Project has already been in operation in 17 Municipal and Metropolitan Assemblies. According to him, the project has helped reduce flooding in Accra. He added that the Ministry will have to sensitise its staff on the dangers in issuing permits to persons who put up structures on waterways and other unauthorised places.

7.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE

When the Committee enquired about what the nominee will do to improve the current state of the Local Government Institute, he stated that the Institute specialises in training staff of other MMDAs and there is currently some proposals before the Ministry to elevate the institute to the status of a University. He promised to allocate more resources to the institute to make it more effective in the discharge of its mandate.

7.6 PARKS AND GARDENS

On what he will do to protect the lands of the Department of Parks and Gardens when given the nod, he stated that he will help reclaim the lost lands as most of the chiefs who allocated these lands to the Department are still alive and that he will see to it that proper documentations are obtained to safeguard against encroachment.

7.7 TENURE AT THE MINISTRY

In response to what the nominee would do within his short tenure at the Ministry, the nominee stated that despite the short period left for the tenure of the Government, nine months in the life of a Government is significant to make impactful decisions that can change the lives of citizens. He indicated that many of the works/projects started by the outgoing Minister are still work-in-progress and he hopes to complete most of them when given the nod.

7.8 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Responding to a question on measures he will put in place to mitigate floods in the country, the nominee admitted that the issue of flooding is a very serious one because of its adverse impact on lives and properties especially, in the urban areas of the country. He cited the Greater Accra Region as the hardest hit in most of the floods that occur in the country.

He informed the Committee that the outgoing Minister did a lot of work under the Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) Project. The project is a collaboration between the Ministry acting on behalf of the Government of Ghana and the World Bank to tackle flooding and deal with waste management in the Greater Accra Region.

He stated that about 17 Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies have benefited from the Project. He said a lot of work was done in 2023 to improve the flooding situation. He added that the Project will be run for 5 years and for that matter, he would continue with the implementation because it has helped in minimising the effects of flooding in the Country.

The nominee, however, suggested that flood prone areas across the country should be identified and treated as flashpoints to ensure adequate preparation before the rainy season starts. He lamented that in his tour of some of the flood prone areas in Accra, he saw that people have put up structures at the buffer zones of huge drains, and that impedes the free flow of water. He pledged to ensure strict compliance to building permit laws, and encourage the Assemblies to discourage people from putting up structures on water ways to enable free flow of water. He said he will consider desilting and dredging of gutters as part of the measures to help improve upon the situation.

7.9 ELECTORAL VIOLENCE IN TECHIMAN SOUTH CONSTITUENCY IN 2020

The nominee was asked what lessons he had learnt from the shooting incident that occurred on 8th December, 2020 in the Techiman South elections. In his response, the nominee indicated that he was deeply affected by the incident as he did not only lose his constituent but also lost a nephew who was very dear to him. He added that the matter is still in court and he looks forward to justice being served.

When the nominee was asked to give an account of what he has done to prevent the reoccurrence of electoral violence such as the one that happened after the announcement of results in the 2020 Parliamentary Elections in the Techiman South Constituency. The nominee admitted it was a sad and regrettable incident. He added that there was relative peace, devoid of violence and tension among the political parties in the electioneering campaign. The incident was therefore least expected.

He said politicians have elections to win but human life cannot be sacrificed in the quest for election victory. He said a lot of lessons have been learnt and his constituents are more united than before. He disclosed that he relates very well with the families of those who lost their lives in the incident and helps them from time to time. The nominee stated he has built 2 five-bedroom apartments for the bereaved families and catered for the hospital bills of those who got injured, to cushion them financially.

However, the nominee agreed with the clarion call for the security agencies to produce a report on the sad incident to avert future occurrences. He added that he is aware that the outgoing Minister for the Interior travelled to Techiman to assure the people that a security report would be issued on the incident.

7.10 **BOUNDARY DISPUTES**

On measures he would implement to address boundary disputes between Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs), the nominee said boundary disputes happen mainly because of revenue considerations. He informed the Committee that he is aware some work was done in 2019 by a Technical Committee set up by the Ghana Statistical Service to deal with the boundary disputes. He indicated that the report was submitted after the work was done and notable among the recommendations were strengthening the Regional Coordinating Council to serve as arbiters, sensitisation of stakeholders such as chiefs and MMDCEs, proper documentation and accurate mapping of the disputed areas.

7.11 IMPROVEMENT IN REVENUE MOBILISATION BY THE ASSEMBLIES

Regarding the question of how he would assist the Assemblies raise more revenues to reduce their dependency on the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF), the nominee stated that he will support the Assemblies to deepen their knowledge in revenue mobilisation and strengthen the less endowed Assemblies to make them more viable in revenue generation.

7.12 PROPERTY RATES

In response to a question on what his posture will be concerning an agreement signed between the Government of Ghana, represented by the Ministry of Finance, the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) and private entity, regarding the property rate collection on behalf of the Assemblies, the nominee informed the Committee that the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development was just a witness to the agreement. He explained that the objective of the agreement was to use technology to enhance the collection of the revenues because the Assemblies have not been as efficient as they ought to be.

The nominee however averred that following the announcement by the Minister for Finance in Parliament about the review of the policy, the agreement has been abrogated and the collection of property rates has been reverted to the Assemblies.

Commenting on how the decision to award the collection of property rates to private entities has led to a reduction in revenue generated by the MMDAs, stated that he believes that the decision was made to

enhance revenue mobilisation in the Municipal and Metropolitan Assemblies.

7.13 DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES' COMMON FUND (DACF)

Commenting on how he will relate with the Administrator for the DACF to ensure smooth operations, the nominee indicated that the functions of the DACF Administrator are stipulated in the Local Governance Act 2016 (Act, 936) and for that matter as a sector Minister, he will work well with everybody in accordance with the law.

7.14 CHALLENGES OF THE DECENTRALISATION PROGRAMME

Touching on the challenges he has observed about the decentralization programme, the nominee stated that funding had been a major impediment for the Ministry in the realization of its mandate of promoting local governance through decentralisation. He said the country has a well-structured local governance system but it needs to be adequately resourced in terms of infrastructure and service delivery, to achieve the desired results.

7.15 PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO ASSEMBLYMEN

Responding to whether he subscribes to the view that Assembly Members should be paid allowances for their work, the Nominee suggested that the Assemblies can support the work of Assembly Members by providing them with some financial assistance to motivate them. He proposed that assistance should be provided at the national level when the Assemblies were unable to do so. He said Assembly Members cannot be paid salaries because most of them work for the Assemblies on part-time basis and some of them are also already on government payroll as public servants.

7.16 PROVISION OF MOTORBIKES TO ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

Commenting on how the supply of motorbikes to Assembly Members would enhance their work, the nominee said that the provision of the motorbikes was a policy aimed at resourcing the nine thousand six hundred (9,600) elected and appointed Assembly Members to enable them perform their duties effectively. The policy, he noted, would help strengthen collaboration and engagement with their base and deepen rural participation and development which is the bedrock of local governance.

7.17 SUCCESS RATE OF THE NATIONAL DECENTRALISATION POLICY DOCUMENT

Commenting on the success rate of the National Decentralisation Policy (Blue Print) launched by the immediate past Minister for Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, the Nominee stated that a lot of progress has been made by the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC) on Decentralisation. He said the focus has been on local economic development, the government policy on "One District-One Factory", "Planting for Food and Jobs" and "Planting for Export". He pointed out that the flagship policies afford people the opportunity to engage at the local level. He informed the Committee that the Blue Print ends this year 2024 and added that he is aware some work is being done by the IMCC to review it and launch a new one. He said his interactions indicate a good success rate which we can build on going forward.

7.18 SPATIAL PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Commenting on plans he will put in place to ensure that the Spatial Planning Policy of the District Assemblies is adhered to, the Nominee underscored the need to stop the indiscipline in our cities like the placing of kiosks and containers in unauthorised places. He admitted that the influx of slums in the cities is a major obstacle to urban development since it thwarts concerted and relentless efforts to plan our cities. He emphasised the need to adequately resource the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA) which is now under the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development to ensure strict enforcement of our laws on spatial planning. The nominee was optimistic that the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority Act, 2016 (Act 925) and the operational guides issued to LUSPSA, will be very helpful in this regard.

7.19 **MINIMUM LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVES**

Touching on the minimum qualification required for one to be appointed District Chief Executives to increase efficiency, the nominee admitted such a criterion will ensure quality standards are met to achieve the needed outcomes. He added that signing performance contracts as an additional requirement would ensure efficient service delivery. He suggested that since most of the political parties have agreed to the concept of electing District Chief Executives, the 1992 Constitution should be amended to suit the circumstance. He said the challenge, however, is whether the elections should be held on partisan basis.

7.20 **DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SIX NEWLY CREATED REGIONS**

Responding to measures he will adopt to deal with disparities in developments between the newly created regions and the older ones, the nominee stated that a total of about 121 projects are spread across the new regions, with a completion rate of 85%. Notable among them include Regional Coordinating Council Buildings and offices for state agencies such as the police. He noted that all the projects have created jobs and allowed for the inclusion of natives in the governance process. He said the projects that have been put in place will also help improve the provision of electricity, water and other social amenities in the regions. He informed the Committee that the six created regions are now fully represented at the National House of Chiefs. He however admitted that more work needs to be done to ensure equitable development across the country.

7.21 **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN OUR LOCAL GOVERNANCE PROCESS**

Commenting on the actions he will take to encourage participation and ensure accountability in the local governance process, the nominee stated that the country needs to commit a lot of resources to the practice of decentralisation to make it more effective and attractive for citizen participation. He noted the apathy and low voter turnout that often characterise our local government elections. He said such challenges can be dealt with, if local government elections are organised on partisan basis.

7.22 **ELECTION OF DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVES**

Expressing his opinion on the call for the election of District Chief Executives, the nominee said he is in support of it since it would bring some level of accountability and responsiveness on the part of the appointees. He explained that such practice is embraced by many

countries across the world with the exception of some few citing Ghana, Pakistan and Malaysia. He continued to explain that such practice would also bring finality to the partisan conflicts that exist between Members of Parliament and the District Chief Executives, where the latter frustrates the work of the former.

7.23 **STATUS OF GOVERNMENT FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES**

When the nominee was asked about his plans to ensure the success of the government flagship programmes such as "One Village-One Dam, "One District-One Factory" and "One Constituency-One Million Dollars", the nominee referred to the work already done under the programmes. He explained that the "One Village-One Dam" policy was specific to the Northern part of the country and was for irrigation purposes to ensure farming all year round, while the "One District-One Factory" has led to the establishment of over 130 factories in a number of Districts across the country. For "Planting for Food and Jobs", he said the first phase of the initiative ended in 2020 and the second phase is currently under implementation. He noted that an assessment of the policy would reveal its positive impact on the lives of the people.

7.24 **REVENUE FROM SANITATION AND POLLUTION TAX**

When asked of the amount of revenue realised from the sanitation and pollution tax, the nominee responded he had no idea because it is not in his purview as a Deputy Minister. He explained that the mandate of sanitation and related issues, lies with the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources but not the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development. He agreed to appeal to the President to bring the issue of sanitation under the purview of the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and

Rural Development to allow for easy monitoring and implementation of sanitation policies. He indicated however that the President has a constitutional mandate to set up different Ministries that he believes will help achieve his vision.

7.25 **RELEASES FROM THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES' COMMON FUND**

The nominee admitted that there are challenges associated with the administration of the District Assemblies' Common Fund (DACF). He indicated that some Assemblies have little or no potential in raising revenues for projects and therefore, depend solely on releases from the DACF. According to him perennial delays in the release of the funds for projects of the Assemblies stall projects at the local level. He assured the Committee that when given the nod, he will engage with the DACF Administrator to help deal with the challenge.

7.26 **REDEVELOPMENT OF MARKETS IN KUMASI AND TAKORADI**

When asked about the status of the redevelopment of the markets in Kumasi and Takoradi, the nominee said the Phase One of the Kumasi Market Project, (Kejetia market) has been completed and its management team is now in charge. He said the Phase Two which consists of the Central Market in Kumasi and Takoradi Market Circle projects have stalled due to funding challenges. He assured the Committee that the Phase Two of the projects would be completed when funds are made available

7.27 **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee recommends to the House by **CONSENSUS** the approval of the nomination of **HON MARTIN ADJEI-MENSAH KORSAH** as Minister for Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development.

8.0 HON OPHELIA MENSAH HAYFORD

MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

8.1 BACKGROUND

Hon Ophelia Mensah Hayford was born on 29th October, 1973, in Akropong and hails from Tsito-Awudome in the Volta Region. The Nominee began her primary education at Ann's Preparatory School from 1976 to 1980 and then continued at Parents Experimental Preparatory School from 1980 to 1987. After her Primary and Junior Secondary School education, she obtained her General Certificate, Ordinary Level, from St. John's Grammar Secondary School in 1992.

Hon Ophelia Mensah Hayford obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Ghana in 2012 and a Bachelor of Law from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) in 2018. The nominee also holds a Master of Public Administration Degree from GIMPA in 2023.

Hon Ophelia Mensah Hayford began her career as a Police Officer in Kumasi from 1994 to 1997 and was later stationed at the Nima Police Station in Accra from 1998 to 2003. She worked at the Criminal Investigations Department as a Detective from 2004 to 2011. Subsequently, from August 2011 to October 2020, the nominee served as a Station Officer under the INTERPOL Unit at the Headquarters of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID). In her service as a Police Officer, she served as a United Nations Police Advisor during Missions in South Sudan from 2008 to 2010 and also from 2019 to 2020.

Hon Ophelia Mensah Hayford is currently the Member of Parliament for Mfantseman Constituency in the Central Region. She has been the Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Defence and Interior, and a Member of the House Committee of Parliament since 2021. She is also a Member of the Pan-African Parliament since 2021.

Furthermore, the nominee has also been a Board Member of both the Prison's Council and the Fisheries Advisory Boards since 2021. In her capacity as a Member of Parliament, Hon Ophelia Mensah Hayford served as a Member of the African Union Election Observation Mission and observed the 2023 Presidential and Nation Assembly Elections in Abuja, Nigeria in 2023. As part of the leadership positions held by the nominee, Hon Hayford has been the Mpuntuhemaa (Development Queen) of the Towoboase-Dominase Traditional Council since 2022 and has been the Choir Patron of the Mankessim West Circuit of the Methodist Church of the Cape Coast Diocese beginning in 2024.

The conferences and workshops attended by the Nominee include several Ordinary Sessions of the 5th and 6th Parliaments of the Pan-African Parliament held in Midrand, South Africa, in 2021, 2022 and 2023. She also attended the 145th and 147th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assemblies in Kigali, Rwanda, and Luanda, Angola, in October 2021 and November 2023 respectively. In January 2022, Hon Hayford attended the African Regional Trade and Security Workshop in Accra, Ghana. She also took part in the 4th African Union CIEFA Workshop with Pan-African Parliamentarians and the 3rd Pan-African Parliamentarians Summit on Climate Policy and Equity in Midrand, South Africa, in 2023. Furthermore, in June 2023, the Nominee paid a Study Visit to the Galilee International Management Institute (GIMI) in Israel.

Additionally, in September 2023, she paid a Study Visit to the National Democratic Institute (NDI) – Institute for Representative Governance (IRG) in Boston, United States of America.

Hon Ophelia Mensah Hayford is widowed with three (3) children. Her hobbies are reading, listening to music, and travelling.

8.2 RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

8.3 ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL WASTE FUND (E-WASTE)

Answering a question on what the Electronic Waste Fund sought to achieve, the Nominee indicated that, the Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, 2016 (Act 917) was passed to provide finance for the management of electrical and electronic waste and to reduce the adverse impact of E-waste on human health and the environment. According to the nominee, public awareness on the effects of E-waste is inadequate. She was optimistic that through public sensitisation, the public would adopt best ways to manage and dispose of electrical and electronic waste. She also promised to collaborate with the E-waste Fund Administrator to guarantee timely fund distribution.

8.4 RESEARCH FUND

When asked how she could support the Research Institutions particularly CSIR and Ghana Atomic Energy Commission to engage in more research, the nominee indicated that research is crucial to a country's development as it drives innovations and technology, enhances economic development, generates new knowledge, addresses societal challenges, and informs evidence-based policymaking. She said when given the nod, she will consider making

research as a priority and assist the institutions by adding value to their research activities. She stated that the Ministry will collaborate with the research institutions to patent their products to generate income.

The nominee indicated that though the country's research fund is managed by the Ministry of Education, she will work together with the Ministry to make research allocations available to the research institutes. She also assured the Committee that the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation(MESTI) would collaborate with the Ministry of Finance to make additional allocations to enable these institutions work effectively and efficiently.

8.5 WATER POLLUTION AND WASTE DISPOSAL

Responding to a question on what the nominee considers necessary in combating water pollution and waste disposal when given the nod, the nominee admitted that globally, there are environmental challenges with regards to water pollution and waste disposal. According to the nominee, the President has set up a Steering Committee chaired by the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources to deal with issues of the environment since the issues are centred around other agencies. She said the MESTI is an enabler and would not be able to curb the issue of pollution and environmental challenges alone. When given the nod she will collaborate with other agencies under the Ministry and beyond to fight the menace.

8.6 GALAMSEY THREAT

With regards to the menace of galamsey in the country, the nominee acknowledged the threat of illegal mining and its dire consequences on the environment. The nominee indicated that the President has set

up a committee to fight illegal mining in forest reserves and water bodies in the country, and her Ministry will add its support to that of the committee to ensure that the fight against illegal mining in forest is won. The nominee added that, she would use her authority when approved as the Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation to fight the galamsey menace despite the obstacles she might face.

8.7 ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

Commenting on the enforcement of environmental laws to promote a clean environment, the nominee stated that her Ministry will ensure compliance to all environmental laws and regulations in the country. She added that both international agreements and local laws would be enforced. According to her, enforcement could be executed through the implementation of strong monitoring systems, regular inspections, imposition of strict penalties for violations, public awareness, collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, and engagement in international cooperation.

8.8 IMPROVEMENT IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

In responding to what could be done to improve Science, Technology and Innovations, the nominee stated that upon her approval as a Minister, she would work with the relevant agencies and technocrats in the Ministry to promote innovations. The nominee admitted the essence of Science, Technology and Innovations as a driving force behind the progress of a country. She also stated the creation of new knowledge and the utilisation of that knowledge solve the critical issues facing the society. She indicated that as a Minister, she will work to strengthen Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

education to nurture a skillful workforce and foster innovations. She also gave assurance to champion the policies and regulations that will augment technology and inspire innovations.

8.9 CLIMATE CHANGE

The nominee when asked how she would tackle issues of climate, she stated that Ghana has already presented to the United Nations a comprehensive action plan on tackling climate change. The nominee further stated that in order to combat climate change, she would support environmentally friendly policies, encourage sustainable behaviours and investments in renewable energy. She also emphasised the necessity of enhancing international collaboration through bilateral agreements and exploring the carbon market.

8.10 COMMERCIALISATION OF RESEARCH

The nominee was in agreement with the school of thought that when research institutions are left to commercialise their products they may deviate from their core mandate. The nominee intimated that because the CSIR was under the Ministry, it would be ideal for the Ministry to sell the research products on behalf of the CSIR. She was of the view that proceeds made from the sale of research products would be used to fund research activities of the CSIR and its analogous agencies.

The nominee further stated that available funds to support research activities is inadequate and she would, if given the nod, look for other alternative sources of funding to support the resources provided by the Ministry of Finance to fund research activities.

8.11 TENURE OF OFFICE

The nominee in response to what she would do differently from what her predecessors had done given the short period of time she has to lead the Ministry stated that a lot could be achieved within the nine (9) months of stay in office. She stated that the key thing she would do is to champion the passage of the Environmental Protection Authority Bill. She would also see to the ratification of bilateral treaties and facilitate the establishment of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) Secretariat in Ghana.

8.12 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends to the House by **CONSENSUS** the approval of the nomination of **HON OPHELIA MENSAH HAYFORD** as Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.

9.0 HON DARKOA NEWMAN

MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

9.1 BACKGROUND

Hon Darkoa Newman was born on the 6th of June,1985 in Accra. She hails from Akropong in the Eastern Region and is married with one child. The Nominee began her primary education at the Christ the King International School. She continued to the Wesley Girls High School, for her Senior Secondary Certificate from 2001 to 2004. From 2005 to 2009, the Nominee proceeded to the University of Ghana to obtain a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Psychology. She also attained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Programme and Project Management from the University of Warwick, United Kingdom in 2011. The nominee was awarded an Executive Education Certificate in Negotiation and Competitive Decision Making from the Harvard Business School in 2022 and a Certificate in Strategic Leadership from the Said Business School in 2023.

From September 2009 to 2013, the nominee worked as a Project Associate in Build Heap Limited. Subsequently, she advanced to work with the GHC Africa project as a Project manager from March 2014 to May 2017. Currently, the Nominee is the Member of Parliament for the Okaikwei South Constituency.

Hon Darkoa Newman is a member of the Project Management Institute in the USA and Ghana. She has held numerous Leadership positions including Member of the Open Government Group Partnership Parliamentary Caucus, Member of the Inter-parliamentary

Taskforce on Human Trafficking, Member and Organiser of the Disability Caucus (2022 to present), Member of the Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts (2021 to present), Member of the Parliamentary Committee on Education (2021 to present). The nominee is a Board Member of the Audit Service Entity Tender Committee, Architectural and Engineering Services Limited(AESL), Gaming Commission of Ghana, Minerals Commission, and DNF Ghana.

Conferences and Capacity-building training attended by the nominee include; The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisations (UNESCO)-217th Session of the Executive Board, Paris in October 2023; 9th WAAPAC Conference and Annual General Meeting, Benin in August 2023; Investing in African Mining, Indaba in February 2023, and International Casino Exhibition, London in April 2022. The Nominee's hobbies are reading and watching football.

9.2 RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

9.3 STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE WORK OF THE MINISTRY

The nominee stated that stakeholder consultation and involvement is a crucial aspect of business strategy and management. She explained that in the context of the Ministry, she will employ those skills by developing an action plan which will heavily involve and harmonise stakeholder actions to ensure maximum efficiency in resource use and smooth operation of the Ministry. She added that her experience will be instrumental in that regard.

9.4 DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES

In responding to the question on how she would deal with the various demographic challenges relating to population and particular groups in the country, the nominee informed the Committee that she has acquired a wealth of experience in that area because of her background in project management. She added that she worked in close coordination with diverse demographics to accomplish tasks as a unit.

She further expressed confidence in her ability to lead and rally her subordinates for the achievement of the Ministry's goals in such a way that every generation will be able to contribute their quota.

9.5 STRATEGIES TO COMBAT CHILD STREETISM

In response to this, the nominee alluded to the *"Operation get off the streets for better lives"* project which was operationalised in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development. She stated that the project was effective in the short run, however, the solution proved to be a temporary one as the children went back on the streets. She indicated that she would use her consultation skills to involve stakeholders in the project as a means to harnessing the positives of the past operations while incorporating sustainability measures and lessons learnt to ensure full and long-lasting effectiveness of the project.

In her response to a further question on whether the budget would be enough to accommodate these positive initiatives, the nominee reiterated that the project will be a collaborative work with other Ministries, Agencies, NGOs, CSOs and other interested stakeholders.

She assured the Committee that by virtue of the collaboration, resources will be put together to address any deficiency.

9.6 ERADICATION OF WITCHES CAMPS

The nominee stated that the law is clear on the sanctions for unjust treatment of women in the witches camps and called for the enforcement of the law. She also stated that, if given the nod, she would ensure that adequate sensitisation is given to the public on the harmful and inhumane treatment meted out to persons alleged to be witches at the camps. She indicated that local stakeholders would have to be mobilised to make the citizens aware about the activities that infringe on the human rights of alleged witches.

According to the nominee, she would lead the cause to rehabilitate existing witch camps to a decent and habitable place to house victims who may be reluctant to go back to their hometowns.

9.7 CRIMINAL OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 2023

When the nominee was asked what advise she would offer the President regarding giving assent to the Criminal Offences (Amendment) (No.2) Bill passed by Parliament and currently with the Presidency, the nominee stated that the decision would be the sole prerogative of the President. She however expressed her trust that the president, having a legal background, would work within the confines of the constitution and make a decision.

9.8 MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE SCHOOL FEEDING

When the Committee sought the view of the nominee on how she would ensure the continuous running of the school Feeding

Programme in less privileged areas, she explained that many concerns have been raised by citizens concerning the delayed payment of remunerations paid to the caterers. Hon Dakoa listed the challenges with the current school feeding programme to include poor remuneration of caterers, low quantity and quality of food served, and inadequate funding.

She stated that in order to curtail the above-mentioned challenges, the budget for the school feeding programme should to be improved.

9.9 **MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS**

With reference to the 2022 Auditor-General's report which highlighted an amount of GH¢15.8m to have been misappropriated by the Secretariat of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), the nominee outlined measures she would put in place to ensure transparency as a means to combating corruption and misappropriation of funds within the Ministry. She explained that the Ghana Household Registry would embark on the re-assessment of households and verify the presence of persons with disabilities. She stated that with this in place, the funds would go to the rightful beneficiaries. She assured the Committee that the exercise would be conducted in May.

9.10 **RATIFICATION OF THE AFRICAN PROTOCOL ON THE RIGHTS OF PWDs**

The nominee assured the Committee that the ratification of the African Protocol on Rights of Persons with disabilities would be her first priority if given the nod as Minister.

9.11 ENFORCEMENT OF THE COMMON FUND ALLOCATION TO PWDs

The nominee was asked to give details on the measures she would employ within the remaining months of her tenure to ensure that all District Assemblies release on time funds allocated for persons with disabilities within their respective jurisdictions.

The nominee indicated that the situation has been a recurring infraction identified during sittings of the Public Accounts Committee. She went on to state that she would consult and collaborate with relevant stakeholders to ensure that persons with disabilities are given their 3 per cent share of the District Assemblies Common Fund.

9.12 ALLEGED INSTANCES OF CHILD LABOUR/SLAVERY

The nominee was asked to state if the dimensions and parameters for determining instances of child labour reported by CNN and other international media were valid. In her response, the nominee stated that such an instance could only be valid if it takes place at a time when the child is supposed to be in school or has urgent educational duties.

In response to the CNN allegations of child abuse in the country, the nominee acknowledged that she has not sighted the said report and thus could not give any response on the matter.

On the issue of child slavery, the nominee stated that the issues are of a broader range therefore she would employ the services of the Investigative Bureaus to ensure the necessary action are taken to curb the menace.

9.13 PERSONS WITH DISABILITY ACT, 2006 (ACT 715)

In response to her take on the impact of the Disability Act since its passage in 2006, the nominee stated that the members of the Ghana Federation for Disability have tasked the Parliamentary Disability Caucus to advocate for the amendment of the Act. She promised to follow up and lobby the Members to speed up the process.

She added that the Caucus met to discuss unemployment issues of persons with disability and was happy to inform the Committee that through the Youth Employment Agency (YEA) the Parliamentary Disability Caucus has solved that problem.

9.14 PROVISION OF ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES FOR THE AGED

Commenting on the lack of facilities to cater for the aged in the country, the nominee acknowledged the concerns raised by the Committee and reaffirmed the need to establish at least one in each region across the country.

The nominee assured the Committee that she would pay special attention to the elderly by ensuring the establishment of additional recreational and mental health centres for the aged. According to the nominee this would create a sense of belonging and purpose in society.

9.15 CHILDREN ON THE AUTISTIC SPECTRUM IN GHANA

Responding to the issue on how to deal with the growing rate of children with autism in Ghana, the nominee explained that autism is a spectrum and varies from child to child.

The nominee further indicated that the exorbitant cost of treating autism makes it difficult for some parents to afford. The nominee assured of her commitment to finding means to subsidise treatment for autistic children in the country and called for the an increased awareness on the matter. She reiterated the need to conduct a comprehensive research into autism to come up with home grown solutions.

9.16 **ESTABLISHMENT OF CORRECTIVE AND REFORMATIVE INSTITUTIONS**

The nominee expressed her desire to work in close partnership with the Ghana Prisons Service on establishing more corrective institutions for minors.

9.17 **ENFORCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT**

The nominee stressed on awareness campaigns to make the general public informed on how to get assistance and protection under the Domestic Violence Act, 2007 (Act 732).

9.18 **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION (GENDER EQUALITY) BILL, 2023**

In responding to the need to prioritise passage of the Affirmative Action (Gender Equality) Bill, 2023, the nominee expressed her desire in pushing for the passage of the Bill. According to the nominee, the Bill aims at increasing the initial 30 percent representation of women to 50 per cent and ensure gradual equal representation of women in Parliament.

The nominee indicated her readiness to lobby the male Members of Parliament to support the passage of the Bill.

9.19 APPLICATION OF ACQUIRED SKILLS IN THE MINISTRY

Responding to questions about how she would use her acquired skills in Business Strategy and Management to transform the Ministry, the nominee stated that majority of the responsibilities in the Ministry have to do with the engagement of the public and having had the opportunity to acquire years of work experience in Project Management she would consider the implementation of stakeholder engagement as a major approach in service delivery towards national development when given the nod.

9.20 TENURE OF OFFICE

The nominee indicated that even though she would have a short term to serve in the Ministry, she believes she would make judicious use of the time and when appointed she would want to embark on projects that border around Social Welfare of Children. She said she would introduce Social Welfare and Family Units across the nation, revamp the dilapidated children's play parks with the involvement of disability friendly societies and rally behind the passage of the Affirmative Action (Gender Equality) Bill, 2023. She also stated that, she would champion the establishment of a Fostering Fund that would cater for the welfare of fostering homes and centres.

9.21 ADEQUACY OF FUNDS TO EMBARK ON PROJECTS

When asked if the annual budget allocation of the Ministry would be enough to drive the continuous sustainability of the programmes, she conceded the inadequacy of funds allocated to the Ministry and said that she would engage Non-Profit Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations and Donors to support the activities of the Ministry.

9.22 REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN'S ACT, 2016 (ACT 937)

The nominee shared her view stating that the review of the Children's Act 2016 (Act 937) would require broader consultations and inputs from Stakeholders. she assured that when given the opportunity she would work to ensure the identified provisions are amended in other to give prospects for under-privileged children to enjoy family units and homes.

9.23 STRATEGIES TO IMPROVING IMAGE OF THE MINISTRY

The nominee explained that as a business strategist, when given the node by the Committee, she will use her competence and turn the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection around through stakeholder engagements with institutions that deal with issues concerning women, Children and Persons With Disability (PWD) in Ghana. In addition, the Minister designate assured the Committee that with her experience in strategy and Management, it would not be a herculean task to deliver, but believe that engaging stakeholders will be a key measure to helping the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

9.24 MANAGING INTER-GENERATIONAL GAPS

Responding to the question on the management of inter-generational gaps, the nominee stated that considering the various demographics of our country concerning women, the aged, children and physically challenged she said she will make efforts to integrate the different generations for a harmonious society. She added that harmonising communities is one of the mandates of the Ministry of Gender,

Children and Social Protection and so she would continue to work within her powers to ensure that each generation is given what it is due.

Hon Darkoa Newman told the Committee that her experience as a project manager has enabled her to work with teams and acknowledged that team members complement each other. She assured the Committee that she would supervise and exercise her ability to properly coordinate the duties of all the generational groups when given the affirmation as Minister.

9.25 **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee recommends to the House by **CONSENSUS** the approval of the nomination of **HON DAKOA NEWMAN** as Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection.

10.0 DR BERNARD OKOE BOYE
MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

10.1 BACKGROUND

Dr Bernard Okoe Boye was born on 25th January 1971, in the Greater Accra Region. He had his Primary and Middle School Education at the Fields Engineers Junior High School from 1995 to 1997. He had his Secondary Education at the Presbyterian Boys Secondary School from 1998 to 2000 and proceeded to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Biology from 2000 to 2005 and a Bachelor's Degree in Medicine and Surgery from 2006 to 2009. He then proceeded to attain an A1 Certificate at the Goethe Institute in Accra, Ghana. Following his attainment of the Certificate, the Nominee advanced to the Humburg University of Applied Studies and obtained a Master's Degree in Public Health (MPH) from 2013 to 2014, and a Master of Business Administration from 2019 to 2020. Dr Bernard Okoe Boye currently holds a Professional Executive Master in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

The nominee commenced his career path as an Intern at the Central Regional Hospital from 2009 to 2011. He worked as a House Officer at Tema General Hospital from 2011 and 2012. He also worked at the Kibi Government Hospital and the La General Hospital as a Medical Officer from 2016 to 2017. In 2017, the Nominee became a Member of Parliament for the Ledzokuku Constituency, served as the Board Chairman for the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital from 2018 to 2020, and the Deputy Minister for Health from 2020 to 2021 respectively. Dr

Bernard Okoe Boye is currently the Chief Executive and a Board Member of the National Insurance Authority.

Regarding Leadership positions held, the Nominee was a Member of the COVID-19 Taskforce from 2020 to 2022, a Member of the Health Committee and the Government Assurances Committee in the 7th Parliament of the Fourth Republic of Ghana, and a member of the Ghana Medical Association.

Conferences and Capacity Building programmes attended by the nominee are; the Multi-sectorial Regional Conference on Financing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Health Security, Accra, Ghana in October 2023., UN General Assembly, USA in September 2023., Impactful Leadership Training, Accra in July 2023.,76th World Health Assembly at Geneva, Switzerland in May 2023., Leadership Strategies for Evolving Health Care Executives-USA in April 2023., Health Assessment and Financing in Thailand in December 2022.

The nominee has written some publications namely; "The Audacity of Ambition", "High Blood Pressure in Black People, An Explanation of What High Blood Pressure (Hypertension) Is, How to Prevent It and Preserve Life", "The Mother in the Monster- Calming the storm at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital Leadership at a Tough Terrain". The nominee's hobbies are soccer and weightlifting.

10.2 **RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS**

10.3 **EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE DELIVERY**

When the Committee asked the nominee about how he would improve emergency health care delivery in the country when he is

given the nod, he stated that some of the problems which are affecting the quality of this service are the lack of logistics such as fuel and funds to service the ambulances regularly.

According to the nominee, the bureaucracy involved in providing these logistics to the ambulance services are too centralised and as such makes the services of the Ghana Ambulance Service unsatisfactory. He believes that there would be improvement if management of the Ghana Ambulance Service is decentralised to the district level to be managed by the District Chief Executives. This would greatly improve the quality and effectiveness of the ambulance system and improve emergency health care delivery.

10.4 **MANAGEMENT OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE**

On whether he believes the COVID-19 Fund was mismanaged by the Board of Trustees, the nominee stated that, he was privileged to be at the core of the Covid-19 Management team and thinks a lot of light has not been thrown on the systems that were put in place to control the pandemic in the country.

He articulated that Ghana had one of the best systems in the deployment of vaccines to the various parts of the country. He said that the vaccines had a short life span and as such some of them expired. He added that, that could not be directly attributed to mismanagement by the Ministry of Health.

He assured the Committee that when approved as Minister, he would ensure that whatever is owed the country is returned. He said that Ghana has a relationship with these agencies who provided the

vaccines and since they are the same Agencies who provide the country with other childhood vaccines they may be contacted to provide other vaccines to defray the cost owed to the country.

10.5 **TENURE OF OFFICE**

When asked what he would contribute to the Ministry as he has a short time to make any impact, he stated that since he has been a Deputy Minister to the Ministry before, he is privy to most of the pending projects. According to the nominee, when given the nod his prerogative would be to carry along stakeholders communities in order to create awareness and appreciation about the ongoing projects by the Ministry.

According to him, he would also want to improve hospital experiences in the government hospitals by introducing the appointment system which would help reduce crowding at the hospitals.

10.6 **NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE AUTHORITY(NHIA)**

When the nominee was asked if the NHIA had any balance on 2023 NHIS Formula approved for the Authority, he stated that the Authority had budgeted for 4.5 billion Ghana Cedis for the year and only 2.7 million Ghana Cedis was approved.

According to him, the NHIA had to go back to the Ministry of Finance during the mid-year Budget Review to request for the deficit as there were contractual obligations to be fulfilled. He expressed appreciation to the Ministry of Finance for the release of funds.

10.7 RENAL CARE IN GHANA

The Committee asked what he would do to improve renal care in government hospitals. The nominee in response, explained that the challenge facing the country in renal care can be surmounted. He informed the Committee that as the Chairman of the Board at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, he was informed about the decrease in the number of dialysis machines from 18 to 13. He said that the private hospitals charge 100 euro as the cost of consumables per session and a patient needs 2 to 3 sessions per week. He believes that if the 30 per cent tax handle is taken off, it would reduce the amount paid for the consumables.

He added that when he assumes office as Minister, he would advocate that the purchase of these consumables be included in the vertical programmes run by the Ministry of Health to enable central government procure the consumables. By so doing various hospitals would be prevented from recovering the full cost and make renal care affordable to all patients.

10.8 AGENDA 111 HOPITALS

On whether he thinks the Agenda 111 programme could not have been a project run by the Project Management Department of the Ministry, the nominee stated that he cannot question the decisions made by the President. He added that his focus would be on leveraging on the good relationship he has with the Presidential Advisor on Health, Dr Anthony Nsiah Asare, to help bring progress to the Agenda 111 programme.

According to him, the Government intends to complete 40 hospitals before the year ends. He advocated for the use of public-private partnership entities to lease hospital equipment for use in the hospitals.

10.9 **LA GENERAL HOSPITAL DEMOLITION**

When the nominee was asked why the Government has failed to build the hospital after its demolition, the nominee stated that as a doctor, he was opportune to work in that hospital and the structure was a death trap. Management decided the structure was not fit for purpose and that led to a structural audit which eventually resulted in the demolition of the hospital building.

According to him, he was a member of the committee that looked at the funding for the building of the hospital, and was aware that the COVID-19 pandemic caused all the financiers to pull out. He however, reiterated Government's commitment to build the hospital for the benefit of the people of La.

10.10 **WEAK STRUCTURES AT THE KORLE BU TEACHING HOSPITAL**

When asked if as Chairman of the Board of the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital he noticed that the surgical and maternity blocks were weak and needed to be demolished, the nominee intimated that he has full knowledge about the situation.

He added that government had put in measures to put up new structures to replace the existing ones but there have been financial challenges.

10.11 SUNSHINE POLICY AT NHIA

The nominee in explaining the Sunshine Policy stated that prior to becoming the CEO of the NHIA, the major challenges facing the hospitals were delayed payments and lack of transparency in the payment processes.

He explained further that the Sunshine policy sought to bridge the gap between all the stakeholders and beneficiaries of the financing processes. According to him, over 4000 health care facilities were reimbursed on time and the payment files were uploaded on the website of the NHIA. He informed the Committee that since the inception of the NHIA, he can attest to the fact that this is the first time the Authority has made up to date payments to healthcare facilities.

10.12 LESSONS LEARNT FROM COVID-19

When the nominee was asked about the lessons the country has learnt from the COVID-19 and what preparedness it had made towards any potential pandemic, he answered that Ghana was forced to invest a total of one billion dollars in healthcare services during the period of the pandemic. According to him, the country had only two laboratories for genetic testing, however the pandemic led to the establishment of over 30 laboratories and this has contributed to the country's health care services.

He informed the Committee of a book he has published detailing all the happenings of the COVID-19 pandemic and how Ghana proved to the world that a middle income country can also manage a pandemic.

10.13 BRAIN DRAIN

When the Committee inquired into his opinion of health care workers leaving the country, he reminded the Committee of the measures that were put in place in 2009 to retain doctors in the country including the establishment of a specialist college for doctors and the waiver of taxes on vehicles imported by health care workers. He informed the Committee that currently the doctor to patient ratios is 1: 4000. According to him, when attractive measures are put in place, health care providers would have no reason to leave the country.

He, however, believes that the exportation of nurses to other countries by the Government should also be encouraged as 40 per cent of the all their earnings are repatriated into the country.

10.14 COVID-19 AUDIT REPORT

When asked whether he had knowledge about the mismanagement of the COVID-19 funds regarding monies paid for the procurement of vaccines, he indicated that he was the Deputy Minister of Health at the time and only assisted the substantive Minister in the discharge of his mandate. He however stated that when approved as Minister he would review the transactions and ensure that all monies due the country are refunded. The nominee was convinced that this would bring closure to all discrepancies noted in the Audit Report.

He further intimated that the operational cost incurred in the deployment of the vaccines and remuneration of the frontline workers were enormous. He added that though there were some mishaps, they did not outweigh the astronomical strides made to overcome the pandemic and keep everyone safe.

10.15 CHALLENGES TO HEALTH CARE DELIVERY IN GHANA

When asked what he thought was the number one challenge which hinders quality health care across the country, he stated that it was the lack of community ownership. According to him, the best hospitals in developed countries are those managed by private trusts in the communities where hospitals are sited.

10.16 FAULTY RADIOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

The nominee when asked why radiological equipment in government hospitals were always faulty and do not serve the purpose for which they were purchased, stated that when approved as Minister, he would prioritise the repairs of radiological equipment to make them functional in all government hospitals.

10.17 PRIORITY AREAS OF THE NOMINEE

When asked what his two priority areas would be as a Minister of Health, he stated that the two areas of development dear to his heart are the improvement in emergency services and rehabilitation centres for chronic illnesses like renal failure and stroke.

10.18 SUPPORT FOR SICK CHILDREN ON THE STREET

Reference was made to the increasing number of sick children paraded in the media and on the streets. In response to how he would manage the emerging problem, the nominee stated that he has observed that some of these children are genuinely in need of medical care which is not covered under the NHIS. He, however, stated that there are other unscrupulous people who parade these children for their personal benefit and as such he would advocate

and engage public institutions to ensure that such children are taken off the streets and not exploited.

10.19 **INCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

On how he would help to manage diseases such as high blood pressure and diabetes, the nominee stated that men currently refuse to take their medications for fear of their adverse side effects. The nominee recommended that preventive care should be promoted by linking mandatory blood pressure checks to national activities or official requests.

10.20 **STIGMATISATION OF MENTAL HEALTH**

When the Committee inquired into the steps he would take to reduce the stigmatisation against mental health patients, he indicated that he was aware that mental health care has been decentralised and now every hospital has a mental health nurse.

He also informed the Committee that steps are being taken to include the top four mental health illnesses including schizophrenia, depression, bipolar under the NHIS. The nominee advocated for orientation to encourage people to seek mental health care in hospitals instead of alternative spiritual solutions.

10.21 **STROKE AND REHABILITATION CENTRES**

When asked how he would include stroke rehabilitation centres in the country as it has become very prevalent and people who are discharged after treatment from hospitals do not receive adequate post healthcare, he stated that he would keep this in mind and work

towards materializing the idea of establishing stroke rehabilitation centres.

10.22 **CHALLENGES FACING HEALTH CARE IN GHANA**

When the Committee inquired whether he agrees that the country's health sector is in crises, he opined that the various branches of health care in the country are performing well. According to him, emergency care and renal care are faced with most challenges but he believes they can be surmounted by working closely with all stakeholders to bridge the gap between time, cost and care.

10.23 **HUMAN SEXUAL RIGHTS AND GHANAIAN FAMILY VALUES BILL**

The nominee's opinion as a medical doctor was sought on the Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill passed by Parliament and yet to be assented to by the President. He was of the view that, per the ethics of his profession, he cannot turn away any person who needed medical attention as a result of involvement in improper sexual activities. According to him, people would not hide their sexual orientation from healthcare professionals if they are assured of proper treatment without prejudice. He stated further that as a Christian, he would not encourage any person to engage in these sexual activities.

11.0 The Committee recommends to the House by **CONSENSUS** the approval of the nomination of **DR BERNARD OKOE BOYE** as Minister Health.

12.0 HON DANIEL NII KWARTEI TITUS-GLOVER

MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR THE GREATER ACCRA REGION

12.1 BACKGROUND

Hon Daniel Nii Kwartei Titus-Glover was born on 28th August, 1966, in Tema of the Greater Accra Region. He obtained his Ordinary Level Certificate from Presbyterian Boys' Senior High School in 1986 and his Advanced Level Certificate from Accra Academy Senior High School in 1988. The nominee then proceeded to the University of Cape Coast to earn a Certificate in Labour Relations from 2001 to 2002. He continued to Open University and Ruskin College Oxford in the United Kingdom where he obtained a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Employment Relations from 2002 to 2003 respectively.

The nominee obtained a Master of Arts Degree in Comparative Labour Relations from Warwick University Coventry in the United Kingdom in 2004. In 2021, the nominee obtained a Master of Business Administration in Corporate Governance from the University of Professional Studies in Accra. The nominee was awarded an Advance Diploma in Logistics and Transport from Datalink University College in Tema in 2022. The nominee is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) in Law at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA).

Hon Daniel Nii Kwartei Titus-Glover undertook National Service at Amonie Junior High School in Enchi in the Western North Region of Ghana. The nominee served as a Teacher at Goshen Educational Complex from 1990 to 1991 and an Internal Audit Assistant at Aluworks

Limited in Tema from 1991 to 2002. He became the Administrator of the Miracle Life Gospel church in Coventry in the United Kingdom from 2002 to 2004. The nominee was the Industrial Coordinator for Tema and Takoradi Plants of Ghacem Limited from 2006 to 2007 and a Human Resource Manager of Kencity Media Limited in Madina from 2009 to 2011.

The Nominee was a Member of Parliament for the Tema East Constituency from 2013 to 2021 and a Deputy Minister of Transport from 2017 to 2021. He was the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Volta Aluminium Company Limited from April 2023 to July 2023. Until his recent nomination, the nominee was the Chief Executive Officer of the Volta Aluminium Company Limited.

Regarding leadership positions held, the nominee was the General Secretary and Chairman of the Tema Youth Association from 1995 to 1997 and from 1997 to 2000 respectively. He was a Member of the Greater Accra Regional Campaign of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) for the 2000 General Election and an Assistant Secretary for the Tema East Constituency from 1998 to 2002. The nominee served as an Assembly Member for the Tema Municipal Assembly from 1998 to 2002. He was the spokesperson for the Young Patriots of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) from 2009 to 2012 and a National Campaign Team Member for the 2012 General Election. Hon Daniel Nii Kwartei Titus-Glover was the Campaign Coordinator for the then Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo in the 2014 Presidential Campaign primaries of the New Patriotic Party (NPP).

The conferences and workshops attended by the Nominee include the Africa Inter-Transport and Infrastructure Conference in Bulawayo Zimbabwe in 2019. In 2018, the nominee participated in the Japan-Africa Infrastructural Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, the Regional Maritime University Board of Governors meeting in Banjul, Gambia and the World Trade Organization Conference in Genea Switzerland respectively. The Nominee also attended a workshop dubbed "Research as an effective tool in Elections" at Accra in 2016. Furthermore, in 2015, Hon Daniel Nii Kwartei Titus-Glover participated in the Campaign Strategy capacity-building at the Hilton Hotel in New York and the World Trade Organization Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia respectively.

The nominee's hobbies include watching movies, listening to music, reading, and cooking.

12.2 RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

12.3 TEACHING OF GHANAIAN LANGUAGES IN BASIC SCHOOLS

When asked of measures the nominee would employ to ensure adequate teaching of Ga Dangbe languages in basic schools, he stated that since language was a means of identification, every available opportunity should be harnessed to make sure that children learn their native language. He agreed that urbanisation has contributed to inadequate teaching of the Ga language in the Greater Accra Region. He promised to liaise with the Ghana Education Service, the Ministry of Education, Chiefs and MMDAs to ensure that enough teachers are trained to teach the Ga language in basic schools.

12.4 PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN THE GREATER ACCRA REGION

On what blueprints need to be followed to promote tourism in the Greater Accra Region, the Nominee outlined strategies he would use to promote tourism. He informed the Committee that one of the means of promoting tourism is through festivals because they provide many benefits to the community. He mentioned three (3) major festivals celebrated by people in the Greater Accra Region which are the Kpledjo Festival of the people of Tema, the Asafutufiam Festival of the people of Ada and the Homowo Festival. He added that these festivals need to be marketed and showcased to the world the rich culture of the Ga-dangbes.

He also added that the tourism potential of the Monkey Sanctuary at Shai Hills would be harnessed and promoted using social media. He said his outfit would capitalise on the work done by the Forestry Commission to help achieve this.

Lastly, he cited the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum as a tourism destination which could also be used to promote tourism in the region.

He noted that to ensure the success of this blueprint, he would liaise with the Ministry of Tourism, Ghana Tourism Authority and the District Assemblies.

12.5 DEALING WITH CHALLENGES ON ROADS IN THE GREATER ACCRA REGION

When asked of how he would deal with the challenge of animals crossing roads, the mentally challenged on the streets and the use of tricycles (Aboboyas) on our roads, the Nominee reiterated the

inaction of the Assemblies. He recounted the days when animals could hardly be seen straying in the communities due to the proactiveness of the Assemblies that caught those animals and give them back at a fee. He noted that the Assemblies ought to be proactive in dealing with the nuisance. He promised that he would ensure that the right things were done.

In relation to the mentally challenged he said a collaboration with the mental hospitals would ensure reintegration of these individuals with their families after treatment. On the issue of controlling tricycles (Aboboyaa) that ply the motorway, he emphasised that he would pursue the initiative of his predecessor in dealing with the issue.

12.6 MANAGEMENT OF THE REGION

Addressing a question on how he would manage the region with 29 MMDAs, the nominee responded that he would rely on the assistance and proactiveness of officers of the Assemblies in managing the Region. He stressed that management of the Region was a collective responsibility of the people and MMDCEs.

12.7 FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

When asked how he would perform his duty of coordinating, facilitating and monitoring of MMDAs and the Sub- District structures in the face of inadequate budget provisions, the nominee noted that the Sub-Districts were under the purview of the MMDAs and said he would engage the appropriate authorities to ensure that the two (2) main sources of funding for the Region which are Government of

Ghana funding and the District Assembly's Common Fund (DACF) are aptly and swiftly released to enable his office deliver on its mandate.

He added that he would liaise with the Minister for Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development to legitimise the Sub-Districts of the thirteen (13) new Assemblies created in 2019, since the Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936) has not been amended to include them.

12.8 SALE OF HYGIENIC FOODS IN THE REGION

Responding to a question on how he would ensure the sale of hygienic foods in the Region, the nominee informed the Committee that it was the duty of the Assemblies to ensure that safe and hygienic foods were sold on our streets.

He emphasised that the health directorates of the Assemblies bear the responsibility of ensuring that the environment, vendors and food staff were safe. He said perpetrators need to be punished because consumption of unhygienic meals affect the individual and the state as well. He said he will collaborate with the Assemblies to guarantee that hygienic foods are sold on the streets of Accra.

12.9 LEVERAGING ON INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

The nominee believed that his ability to communicate in a good number of indigenous languages places him in a good position to collaborate with the many different ethnic groups in the region. He said this will aid in the discharge of his mandate and also foster development in the region.

12.10 MEASURES TO INCREASE INTERNALLY GENERATED FUNDS (IGF)

The nominee, when asked about what measures he would put in place to increase the Internally Generated Funds (IGF) of the Region, stated that extensive and efficient mobilisation of property rates was a sure way to increase the IGF of the Assemblies. He stressed the importance of the realisation of increased IGF as means to support development of schools and hospitals in the Region. He further stated his support to the policy to reverse the collection of property rates to the Assemblies.

12.11 ADHERENCE TO THE BUILDING PLANNING SCHEMES OF THE ASSEMBLIES

When asked about his role in ensuring that spatial planning in Accra is done in accordance with the planning schemes of the Assemblies, the nominee noted that since planning was one of his duties he would collaborate with the regional directors of the Spatial Planning Unit at the Assemblies to ensure that planning schemes of the Assemblies are religiously followed. He added that it was the duty of the regional directors to ensure that the permits given to estate developers conform to the planning scheme of the Assembly.

12.12 NOISE POLLUTION

The nominee, in contributing to the discussion on how the Assemblies are dealing with noise pollution in Accra, said it was the duty of the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that noise pollution is within limits. He proposed that the Assemblies must educate the populace on the available by-laws and the consequences of flouting these laws.

12.13 RESOLVING THE CHALLENGES CAUSED BY ERRATIC POWER SUPPLY

The nominee was asked about how the current erratic power supply has affected the operations of VALCO and what possible solutions can be deployed to curtail it. In his response, he informed the Committee that he has discussed with his management a model for the use of natural gas by the company for its productions.

He also informed the Committee that since pipelines of Sentuo Oil pass through the premises of VALCO it would be possible to tap into it for production. He also added that there is the need to populate the one hundred and seventeen (117) cell lines for production and also use scrubbers in the cell lines since the rectifiers are old. He noted that these measures would help reduce the electricity consumption of VALCO. He added that VALCO needs to add value to its operations to boost production.

12.14 SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE GREATER ACCRA REGION

When asked about measures to ensure sustainable development in the Region, the nominee said that even though his tenure would be short when given the nod he hopes to do his best to make an impact. He called on the support of the Committee to make his hope a reality.

12.15 STATE OF THE CHEMU LAGOON

When asked about the state of the Chemu Lagoon, the Nominee answered that the Lagoon is in a bad state and is unable to support any aquatic life. He noted that the bad state of the Lagoon was as a result of some industries like Tema Oil Refinery, Lever Brothers and Lube oil channeling their industrial waste through the lagoon into the sea. He proposed that the Lagoon should be dredged and desilted and

the industries that channel waste through the lagoon into sea must treat the waste before release.

12.16 **ENFORCING THE LAW ON LAND GUARD ACTIVITIES**

In response to the measures he would adopt to sensitise people on the criminalisation of land guard activities under the Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036), the nominee said that the issue is a national security one. He assured the Committee that he has taken note of the flashpoints and together with the Regional Coordinating Councils and the Regional Security Councils they would deal with the challenge appropriately.

12.17 **CHILD STREETISM**

Commenting on he what he will do to end child streetism, the nominee answered that through the Regional Coordinating Councils and the Assemblies he would liaise with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, National Security and the Embassies to get them off the streets. He noted that most of the children on the streets are not of Ghanaian descent but live in Ghana and so the state and the Embassies of the countries from which the children migrated should share the responsibility of getting them off the streets.

12.18 **DORMITORIES AND TOILET FACILITIES FOR HEAD PORTERS (KAYAYES) IN THE REGION**

Responding to a question on the status of the dormitories and toilet facilities promised head porters (kayayes) by the Government, the nominee said that he had no information on the subject matter but hoped to gain knowledge about it from the handing over notes from his predecessor.

12.19 **SECURING LANDS AT THE RAMSAR SITE**

When asked how he would protect the remaining land at the Ramsar Site, the nominee assured the Committee that he would study and pursue measures adopted by his predecessor to ensure the protection of the land from any further encroachment. He believed that this will protect and preserve aquatic life at the site.

12.20 **USE OF FOOTBRIDGES BY PEDESTRIANS**

Expressing his views about the non-use of the footbridges by pedestrians in Accra, the nominee stated the absence of security officers to ensure that the footbridges on the Adenta Madina Highway were used by pedestrians was a challenge. He promised to put measures in place to get pedestrians to use the footbridges to save the motorist the risk of having to knock road users.

12.21 The Committee recommends to the House by **CONSENSUS** the approval of the nomination of **HON DANIEL NII KWARTEI TITUS-GLOVER** as Minister for the Greater Accra Region.

13.0 MS FATIMATU ABUBAKAR

MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

13.1 BACKGROUND

Ms Fatimatu Abubakar was born on the 16th of September,1986 at Moshie Zongo, Kumasi in the Ashanti Region. She is married with two (2) children. The Nominee had her primary education at the Buokrom M/A Junior Secondary School from 1999 to 2002. She continued to Kumasi Academy where she attained her Senior Secondary School Certificate in 2005. The nominee progressed to the University of Ghana from 2006 to 2010 to pursue a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology with English Language and in 2018 she obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Law (LLB) from Mountcrest University in 2018. She is currently pursuing a Master of Arts Degree in Law (LLM) online program at the University of London.

The nominee did her National Service at the Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Authority from 2010 to 2011. She worked as a House Manager at the Landsdown Ibru Heights Resort from October 2013 to June 2014, she also worked as an Administrator from January 2015 to June 2016 at Sage Bancshares Limited. Ms Fatimatu Abubakar was appointed the Deputy Communications Director at the Office of the President from January 2017 to 2021. The nominee has been the Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Information since July 2021.

The nominee has held several positions including Secretary to the National Women's Organiser of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) from 2011 to 2013, Member of the New Patriotic Party Communications Team from 2014 to date, Campaign Aide for the NPP 2016 Elections

Campaign Team from 2015 to 2016, Spokesperson for the New Patriotic Party 2020 Elections Campaign Team and the Spokesperson of the Legal Team of the President First Respondent in 2021 and a Board Member of the Ghana Trade Fair Company Limited from 2017 to 2021.

Conferences and Capacities attended by the nominee include a certificate in e-campaigning Tools and Strategies at the Advance Information Technology Institute in 2011, a Certificate in Campaign and Communication at Jarl Hjamarson Foundation in 2012, a Certificate for Women in Politics Training at Fried Ebert Stiftung in 2012.

The nominee is a member of the Ghana Bar Foundation. She received an Honourable mention at the Lifelink Tertiary Model United Nations in 2012.

Her hobbies are reading, teaching, and fitness.

14.0 RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

14.1 NOMINEE'S APPRECIATION OF THE MANDATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

The nominee admitted to the Committee that prior to her appointment as Deputy Minister for Information, she held the view that the mandate of the Ministry of Information was limited to the dissemination of Government information and the selling of the success stories of the Government to the citizenry. She, however, learnt after assumption of the position that the mandate of the Ministry extended beyond that remit. She stated that the mandate of the Ministry included engagement with various stakeholders in the

information sector and the supervision of the Agencies under the Ministry to ensure that they performed their roles efficiently and effectively. She also informed the Committee that she has had the opportunity to learn a lot from the former Minister for Information, under whom she functioned as a Deputy Minister for Information until her nomination for appointment as the substantive Minister.

14.2 FUNDING FOR MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND ITS AGENCIES

The nominee bemoaned the inadequate budgetary allocations to the Ministry of Information and its Agencies over the years that she served as the Deputy Minister. She, however, informed the Committee that the funding challenge has eased now. She referenced an allocation in the 2024 Budget of the Ministry in which the Ministry of Finance allocated funds to the Information Services Department (ISD) to procure 40 vans to facilitate the work of the Department. The nominee further stated that she had been briefed by the former Minister for Information that the process for procurement of the vans had commenced and the vans would be delivered within three months.

14.3 PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS

The nominee categorically condemned all acts of threat and use of force against journalists regardless of the circumstances. She further cited instances where the Ministry of Information stepped in to address issues of threats or actual acts of violence against journalists in the country. She informed the Committee that the Ministry reported such cases to the Ghana Police Service for investigation and for justice to be served. She cited the instance when a group of individuals stormed UTV station during a live broadcast to attack the journalists leading to

the cessation of the programme. She said the Ministry of Information reached out to the Management of UTV station and the Ghana Police Service to take the necessary action and that resulted in the arrest of the perpetrators who were prosecuted and fined by the Court. She further cited the current efforts being made by the Ministry to safeguard the protection of journalists in the country including the setting up of the Office of the Coordinated Mechanism for the Safety of Journalists. She hoped more would be done to protect journalists in the country to perform their constitutional role as the fourth estate of the realm.

In her response to a question on who protects the people against whom malicious publications are published, the nominee recommended that all stakeholders should collaborate to educate the public about the avenues available to victims to seek redress in the event that they believe that journalists have issued negative reportage about them.

14.4 ENHANCING GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS

The nominee informed the Committee that the Ministry's role includes assisting the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to come up with communication strategies and execute those strategies. She explained that, more often than not, the Ministry of Information has not been the implementing agency of most government projects. She also informed the Committee that a platform called the Minister's Press Briefing has been established by the Ministry of Information to give the opportunity to key sector MDAs to tell Ghanaians about their achievements.

The nominee agreed with the finding of a research done by the Ghana Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) that a good number of Ghanaians did not trust in the efficacy and accuracy of Government communication. She, however, told the Committee that the Ministry had embraced modern technology to address the issue. She disclosed that the Ministry had set up a platform to give Ghanaians the opportunity to confirm the authenticity of Government communications and that platform could be accessed from all parts of the country. She stated that all government projects, programmes, policies and laws have been uploaded on an app and website known as the Government of Ghana Performance Tracker, which was due to be launched soon.

14.5 **CURBING THE MENACE OF MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION**

The nominee informed the Committee that the Ministry of Information through the Information Services Department (ISD) has set up a platform called "Ghanatoday" to serve as the original source of Government's verified information and a fact-checking platform to access verified information from the Ministry of Information and other government agencies. This platform is designed as one of the measures to curb misinformation and disinformation within Ghana's information space.

The nominee acknowledged the growing threat of misinformation and disinformation within Ghana's information space and the deleterious challenges of the menace. She cited the latest ranking done by Press Freedom Reporters which concluded that the impact of misinformation and disinformation was going to be more detrimental than the COVID-19 pandemic because of the

sophistication of modern technology which allows people to mimic the truth in such a way that even the most level-headed persons could be deceived. She informed the Committee that the Ministry is consequently engaging key stakeholders within the information sector to undertake several activities such as fact-checking to curb misinformation and disinformation. She cited Dubawa, an organisation in Ghana which takes some key publications and utterances particularly from prominent members of the society including politicians and subject them to a test to verify the authenticity of such publications.

The nominee also stated that when the Committee graciously approves her appointment as Minister for Information, she would take appropriate measures to provide a speedy response to matters that come into the public domain to stop unscrupulous people from taking advantage of the void created by delayed responses to engage in the menace.

14.6 **ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF PLAYERS IN THE INFORMATION SECTOR**

The nominee informed the Committee that the Ministry has taken steps to build capacity of players in Ghana's information sector including bloggers. She disclosed that bloggers in Ghana have formed the New Media Association of Ghana and the conduct of the members of the Association are supervised by the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA). She also disclosed that the Association has developed Code of Ethics to govern the conduct of its members in their area of work. She further stated that the bloggers have consented to meet with the Ministry and GJA to discuss ways to

enhance their capacity and be provided with requisite guidance on best practices to improve their work.

14.7 NEW POLICY DIRECTIVE FOR GBC

The nominee informed the Committee that the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) has been directed to switch from state broadcasting to public service broadcasting. Additionally, the Management of GBC has been empowered to produce programmes that are appropriate while being mindful of social and political contexts.

14.8 PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATIONS AND GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS DICHOTOMY

Drawing on her experiences as the Deputy Minister for Information and a former Deputy Communications Director at the Office of the President, the nominee told the Committee that the role of the Communications Directorate of the President was distinct from that of the Ministry of Information. She likened the role of the Communications Directorate at the Presidency to that of an organisation's Corporate Affairs Directorate. According to her, the Communications Directorate at the Presidency manages the brand of the President which includes his engagements, pictures, archives and foreign travels, among others. However, the role of the Ministry extends well beyond that, given that it oversees the functioning of agencies under the Ministry.

14.9 STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RTI ACT

The Minister Designate told the Committee that the Ministry is working hard to ensure citizens are able to enjoy their constitutional right to information as stipulated in Article 21(1)(f) of the 1992 Constitution. She informed the Committee that the implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989) was ongoing and over three hundred (300) RTI Officers have been recruited and deployed to the various MDAs. She further stated that the final draft of the Legislative Instrument (L.I) to aid in the implementation of the RTI Act was ready to be laid in Parliament for passage in accordance with Article 11(7) of the 1992 Constitution.

14.10 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends to the House by **CONSENSUS** the approval of the nomination of **MS FATIMATU ABUBAKAR** as Minister for the Ministry of Information.

15.0 MR DANIEL MACHATOR
MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR THE OTI REGION

15.1 BACKGROUND

Mr Daniel Machator was born on the 7th of June,1987 at Bonakye in the Oti Region. He is married with two (2) children. The Nominee had his primary education at the Nkwanta L/A Primary "B" School and Prince Boateng Memorial School from 1994 to 1997. He continued to "2" Brigade Basic School where he attained his Basic Education Certificate in 2002. He also continued to Kumasi High School from 2002 to 2005 for his Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination.

Upon completion, the nominee progressed to the University of Ghana from 2006 to 2010 to pursue a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History with Linguistics and in 2015 attained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications Studies from the University of Cape Coast.

Mr Daniel Machator did National Service at the National Commission for Civic Education in 2010 and subsequently worked as a Radio Station Manager at Thoevision International from 2011 to 2012.

The nominee also served in the Ghana Prisons Service from 2012 to 2020, working as a staff officer to the Regional Commander from 2012 to 2014, Regional Public Relations Officer from 2012 to 2019, and advanced to the position of Deputy Director of Public Affairs from 2019 to 2022. He has been the Head of the Public Affairs Unit at the Ghana Institute of Journalism (University of Media, Arts and Communication) since 2020.

The nominee is a Member of the Institute of Public Relations, Ghana, and has held several Leadership positions which include; Secretary to the Professional Advisory Committee of the Ghana Institute of Journalism from 2020 to 2023. He received a Special Award for highlighting issues on Crime, Health and Security in 2018.

Mr Daniel Machator has attended some conferences and capacity-building programmes which include a certificate Course in Countering Violent Extremism in Prisons-West Africa Regional Training Centre in Accra in January 2018, a Certificate Course in the Use of Smartphones for Effective Storytelling-UNIMAC in 2023, a Certificate Course in social media for Effective Political Campaigns-UNIMAC in 2023 and Certificate Course in Political Communication and Reputation Management-UNIMAC in 2023.

The nominee enjoys reading and sightseeing.

15.2 RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

PRISON REFORMS

Responding to a question on how to translate his experience into action plans to ensure effective prison reforms, the nominee stated that the country's prisons are congested and that the forty-five prison establishments built were to accommodate ten thousand inmates but currently houses about fifteen thousand inmates. He added that the sanitary conditions in Ghana's prisons wer overstretched because Nsawam which was built for about seven hundred and ninety-nine prisoners currently houses over five thousand prisoners.

The nominee informed the Committee that since 2011the allocation for feeding of prisoners has been GH₵1.80 per day for each prisoner. He, however, said that prisons are supposed to be reformatory but due to these inhumane conditions, they can only be classified as "human warehouses". He assured the Committee that he would engage the Ministry of Interior to discuss the situation for possible enhancement of the budgetary allocation to the Prison Service in order for the Service to achieve its ultimate goal of rehabilitating and reforming.

15.3 ACCESS TO INFORMATION

In response to how he could leverage on his experience to bridge the communication gap between the Government and citizens of the Oti region, the nominee stated that he would resource the Information Service Department at the various District Assemblies to enable them educate the indigenes on various developmental projects.

He, again, informed the Committee that he would ensure that the Public Relations Officer of the region utilises local radio stations to increase the awareness of the citizens on ongoing governmental projects.

15.4 INCLUSION OF PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITY

Commenting on his view on the possible inclusion of persons living with disability in the governance architecture, the nominee acknowledged the constitutional imperative under Article 17 of the 1992 Constitution. He stated that all efforts by Government geared towards including persons living with disability should be embraced by all. Reacting to measures to promote the rights of persons living with disability, the nominee stated that the Regional Coordinating Council

would frequently engage such persons to ascertain their challenges and offer support to ameliorate their plights. He added that persons living with disability would be given preferential treatment in job recruitment in the region.

15.5 **IMPROVEMENT ON EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

On what steps he would take to address the deficit in educational infrastructure within the inland communities of the region, the nominee informed the Committee that he would engage the Ministry of Education and other development partners to assist in the provision of educational facilities within the region.

Reacting to the educational disparity in the region, the nominee indicated that he intends to liaise with some Non-Governmental Organisations to seek assistance for the completion of all educational projects. He would also educate parents on the importance of ensuring their wards are well educated.

15.6 **REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE OF SANTROKOFI, AKPAFU, LIKPE AND LOLOBI (SALL) IN PARLIAMENT**

Touching on what he would do to ensure that the people of SALL are represented in Parliament, the nominee stated that he has no jurisdiction over the matter because it is the Electoral Commission that is constitutionally mandated to ensure representation in Parliament. He added that the legal action on the matter injuncts him from commenting on it. He entreated the Committee to await the ruling of the Supreme Court on the matter.

15.7 OTI REGION AS CENTRE OF TOURISM IN GHANA

Commenting on the steps he would take to make the region a preferred destination for tourism in the country, the nominee admitted that the region could boast of many tourist sites such as the Hanging Mountain, the Breast Mountain and the monkey sanctuary. He said these sites could be leveraged upon to enhance the tourism potentials of the region. He, however, bemoaned the deplorable road networks to these tourist sites and promised to engage the Ministry of Roads and Highways for improvement in the road networks. He hoped that the improvement in the road networks would increase the revenue generation activities of the region.

15.8 ADDRESSING CORRUPTION IN THE OTI REGION

In response to measures to mitigate corruption in local governance, the nominee informed the Committee that as head of the Regional Coordinating Council, he would ensure that MMDCEs and staff of the various Assemblies adhere strictly to the Country's financial management regulations to curb the canker of corruption.

15.9 NEXUS BETWEEN YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND IMPRISONMENT

Responding to the question about whether youth unemployment is a factor that contributes to increased imprisonment of the youth, the nominee admitted to the assertion and added that evidence shows that most of the inmates who engage in stealing and robbery are unemployed. The nominee promised to engage the Ghana Prisons Service to propose programmes that would provide inmates with skills that would make them better citizens upon their release.

15.10 IMPROVEMENT OF LIVELIHOOD OF THE PEOPLE ALONG THE VOLTA LAKE

Touching on his approach to ameliorate the livelihood of people on the Volta Lake, the nominee informed the Committee that he would strengthen engagement with stakeholders like the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), the Volta River Authority (VRA) and the indigenes on how best livelihoods of persons along the Volta Lake could be improved.

He advocated for the provision of alternative housing units for victims of the spillage. He however implored the people living in spillage-prone areas to settle on higher grounds to prevent them from being submerged in the water. The nominee further indicated that he would ensure that proper building permits are secured before buildings in the area are constructed.

15.11 INCREASE IN REVENUE GENERATION OF THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES

Responding to the question on measures to adopt to increase the Internally Generated Funds (IGF) of the Assemblies in the Oti Region, the Nominee acknowledged that revenue generation is the bedrock of the district assembly system.

According to him, he would engage and educate market women on the need to pay market tolls. He added that he would also ensure the payment of property rates to boost the revenue of the Assemblies. The nominee was optimistic that these strategies would prevent the incessant dependence on central government for development.

15.12 PRESERVATION OF KYABOBO NATIONAL PARK

Commenting on steps to preserve the Kyabobo tourist site to ensure revenue generation for the Oti Region, the nominee stated that he would liaise with the Forestry Commission, Wildlife Division and other security agencies to protect the park from poachers. He added that he would also engage the Ministry of Roads and Highways to improve the road network leading to the tourist site.

15.13 CHILD LABOUR

In responding to how to eradicate child labour in the region, the nominee admitted there are school children who work on the farms and on the Volta Lake. He however promised to collaborate with some Non-Governmental Organisations like the International Justice Mission to eradicate the phenomenon.

15.14 HANDLING CONFLICTS BETWEEN MPs AND MMDCEs

Touching on his approach to handling conflict between MPs and MMDCEs, the nominee stated that conflict is unavoidable in any human institution and conflicts normally emanate from the disbursement of the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF). He added that another factor that fuels these conflicts is the ambition MMDCEs nurture to contest parliamentary elections. He however assured the Committee would organise breakfast meetings to engage MPs and MMDCEs to discuss conflicts and other relevant matters in the area.

15.15 PRIORITY PROJECTS OF THE NOMINEE

In response to a question on what his priority projects would be when given the nod as the Regional Minister for the Oti Region, the nominee

assured the Committee he would focus on security to create a peaceful atmosphere in the region, engage and liaise with the department of roads and highways to fashion out how to improve the road network in the Oti Region, and facilitate the provision of educational infrastructure in the Region.

15.16 **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTIES IN THE ASSEMBLIES**

When the Committee sought the view of the nominee on the issue of numerous appointments of deputy roles in the Assembly, Mr Daniel Machator stated that, he could not speak to the current situation in the Assemblies. However, he informed the Committee that per his experience at the Ghana Prisons Service, definite work schedules and roles were assigned to all deputies to ensure that there were no conflicting roles in the execution of their duties. He added that when given the nod he would be able to probe further and ensure that the situation in the Assemblies in the Region were dealt with properly.

15.17 **DISCOVERY OF IRON ORE IN THE OTI REGION**

In his response to discovery of iron ore in the Region, the nominee detailed that the Oti Region has always been endowed with natural resources. According to the nominee, even in pre-colonial times, merchants travelled from all over the country to purchase iron ore in the region. He further reiterated that the use of technology would be of enormous benefit and also a game changer for the Region. Technology per the nominee, would assist in the extraction of the ore without much damage to the environment. The iron ore does not necessarily have to be sold in its natural form, and that value addition would boost its worth and by extension, additional revenue for the nation.

15.18 **EDUCATIONAL DISPARITY IN THE OTI REGION**

The nominee confirmed to the Committee that there is indeed a huge educational disparity in the Oti Region than the rest of the country partly due to poor educational infrastructure. He further asserted that the Region is largely agrarian and parents sometimes finds it appealing to send their children to the farm or even on the lake than to the classroom. Per the nominee, parents must be educated on the benefits of schooling.

15.19 **PROMOTION OF LOCAL RICE**

The nominee assured the committee that he would do his utmost best to promote locally produced rice, especially brown rice from the Oti Region. He opined that since Ghanaians have generally acquired the taste for imported rice it may be difficult to alter the taste. He promised to highlight the benefits of the local brown rice and encourage farmers in the Region to grow more for both the local and international markets to boost their income levels.

15.20 **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee recommends to the House by **CONSENSUS** the approval of the nomination of **MR DANIEL MACHATOR** as Minister for the OTI Region.

15.21 **CONCLUSION AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee in the light of the provisions in Articles 78(1) and 256 of the 1992 Constitution and Standing Order 217considered the nine (9)

nominations of H.E. the President as Ministers and Regional Ministers. The nominees demonstrated, competence, knowledge and dexterity regarding issues pertaining to their various Ministries.

The Committee, therefore, recommends to the House by **CONSENSUS** the adoption of its report and approval of the following nominees:

1. Hon Andrew Kofi Egyapa Mercer	-	Minister for the Ministry Tourism, Arts and Culture
2. Hon Lydia Seyram Alhassan	-	Minister for the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources
3. Hon Martin Adjei-Mensah Korsah	-	Minister for the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development
4. Hon Ophelia Mensah Hayford	-	Minister for the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation
5. Hon Dakoa Newman	-	Minister for the Ministry Children and Social Protection
6. Dr Daniel Okoe Boye	-	Minister for the Ministry of Health
7. Hon Daniel Nii Kwartei Titus-Glover	-	Minister for the Greater Accra Region
8. Ms. Fatimatu Abubakar	-	Minister for the Ministry of Information
9. Mr. Daniel Machator	-	Minister for the Oti Region

Respectfully submitted

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HON JOSEPH OSEI-OWUSU
(FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE)

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ANITA QUARTEY-PAPAFIO
(HEAD, GOVERNANCE CLUSTER OF COMMITTEES AND CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)