

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

**IN THE SECOND MEETING OF THE FIRST SESSION  
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH  
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**



**FIFTH REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS  
COMMITTEE ON HIS EXCELENCY THE  
PRESIDENT NOMINATIONS FOR MINISTER OF  
STATE AND DEPUTY MINISTERIAL  
APPOINTMENTS**

**15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2021**

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EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINATIONS FOR MINISTER OF  
STATE AND DEPUTY MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2021, H.E the President submitted to Parliament nominations of a Minister of State and 39 Deputy Minister - Designates for consideration and approval in accordance with Article 78 (1) and 79(1) of the Constitution. The Rt. Hon. Sparker subsequently referred the nominations to the Appointment Committee for consideration and report pursuant to Order 172 of the Standing Orders of the House.

1.2 Twelve nominations out of the forty (40) considered in the first batch are as follows:

- i. **Mr. Charles Kofi Asare Adu-Boahen - Minister of State-  
Designate for Finance**
- ii. **Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio - Deputy Minister-  
Designate For Lands &  
Natural Resources**
- iii. **Hon. Augustine Collins Ntim - Deputy Minister-  
Designate for Local  
Government,  
Decentralisation & Rural  
Development**
- iv. **Hon. Osei Bonsu Amoah - Deputy Minister-  
Designate for Local  
Government,  
Decentralisation & Rural  
Development**

- v. **Hon. William Owuraku Aidoo** - Deputy Minister-Designate  
for Energy
- vi. **Hon. Abena Osei - Asare** - Deputy Minister-  
Designate for Finance
- vii. **Hon. Yaw Frimpong Addo** - Deputy Minister-  
Designate for Food &  
Agriculture
- viii. **Hon. Kwaku Asante Boateng** - Deputy Minister-  
Designate for Railway  
Development
- ix. **Hon. Ama Poma Boateng** - Deputy Minister-  
Designate for  
Communications &  
Digitalization
- x. **Hon. Kwaku Ampratwum-Sarpong** -Deputy Minister-  
Designate for Foreign  
Affairs & Regional  
Integration
- xi. **Hon. Moses Anim** - Deputy Minister-  
Designate for Fisheries &  
Aquaculture  
Development
- xii. **Hon. Nana Dokua Asiamah-Adjei** -Deputy Minister-  
Designate for Trade and  
Industry

## **2.0 PROCEDURE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE REFERRAL**

- 3.1 Pursuant to Order 172 (3) of the Standing Orders of the House, the names of the nominees and notice of the Committee's Public Hearing were published in newspapers with national circulation for the attention of the general public. The publication further requested Memoranda in respect of the nominees from the public.
- 3.2 The Committee subsequently sought and obtained Confidential Reports on the nominees from the Ghana Police Service and the National Investigations Bureau (NIB) as part of its investigations on the nominees. The Committee also requested and obtained Tax Status Reports on the nominees from the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).
- 3.3 The Committee then held Public Hearings to consider the nominations. In view of the large number of nominees the Committee decided to consider them in batches. At the commencement of proceedings, the Nominees subscribed to the Oath of a Witness and subsequently answered questions in respect of their Curriculum Vitae, matters relating to their eligibility, issues pertaining to the offices to which they have been nominated for and other issues of national importance.

## **3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The Committee made references to the under-listed documents during its deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution;
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament; and
- iii. The Curriculum Vitae of the Nominees

## **4.0 INTERACTION WITH NOMINEES**

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

#### **4.1 MR. CHARLES KOFI ASARE ADU-BOAHEN - MINISTER OF STATE -DESIGNATE FOR FINANCE**

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##### **4.1.1 Background**

Mr. Charles Kofi Asare Adu Boahen was born on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1970 in Accra. He had his basic education from 1973 to 1982 at the University Primary School, Legon. He then proceeded to Achimota Secondary School and Mfantsipim Secondary School for his Ordinary Level and Advanced Level Certificates respectively between 1982 and 1989.

The nominee enrolled at the University of Ghana in 1991 where he studied Statistics, Chemistry and Geology but abandoned the course after a year in 1992. He later enrolled at the Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey from 1992 to 1993 and later transferred his credit to the University of Southern California where he obtained his first degree at the University of Southern California (USC) in Chemical Engineering in 1996. He went to the Harvard Business School in New Haven, Connecticut from 1998 to 2000 where he obtained a Master's Degree in Finance.

Mr. Adu Boahen discharged his national service duties at Mobil Ghana Ltd, Accra from 1989 to 1990. From June to August 1995, he was an intern at Salomon Smith Barney at Wall Street, New York. He later became an Analyst in the same institution from 1996 to 1998. He worked as an Investment Officer at AIG Africa Infrastructure Fund in Washington, DC from 2000 to 2001. He was the Vice President of JP Morgan with oversight responsibilities for the Bank's operations in London-UK, Johannesburg-South Africa and Lagos-Nigeria from 2001 to 2006. He was also the Director of Standard Bank, Johannesburg-South Africa. He is currently the founder and CEO of Black Star Advisors/Primrose Properties GH based in Accra.

The nominee was a Deputy Minister of Finance from 2017 to January 2021. He has held various leadership positions in a number of organizations with some being the Creative Hub, Eris Properties, Afrimax Ghana BV and The Adu Boahen Foundation. He is currently a Member of Ghana Securities Industry Association and a Fund Manager of the Christian Community Mutual Fund (CCMF).

#### 4.1.2 Responses to Questions

The nominee responded to questions relating to the areas under the following headings:

##### **Appointment of Black Star Brokerage Company as a Transaction Advisor for Government Bonds**

On whether he did not use his position as a Deputy Minister for Finance and Member of the Board of Bank of Ghana (BoG) and Securities and Exchange Commission to influence the selection of Black Star Brokerage Company, a company in which he held interests, as a transaction advisor for the issuance of Government Bonds, the nominee responded in the negative. He informed the Committee that he had resigned from his position as the Director of the Black Stars Group of Companies prior to its engagement as transaction advisor by the Ministry of Finance.

He disclosed that the procedures and processes for selecting transaction advisors for the issuance of Government Bonds are transparent and competitive in nature and more importantly independent of the Minister and Deputy Minister for Finance. He further added that the selection processes are handled administratively involving only key directors at the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Ghana.

He stated that the selection of the company and brokerage firms and Banks as transaction advisors among registered market dealers based on their historical trading performances on the stock exchange. He emphasised that Black Star Brokerage Company did not benefit from privileged information regarding the issuance of the Bonds and could pass for insider trading. He indicated that the dates of issuance of Government Bonds are often public knowledge as the dates are published months ahead of the actual date of issuance.

He admitted that, prior to his appointment as Deputy Minister for Finance, Black Stars Brokerage Company limited had never participated in the issuance of Government Bonds. He also informed the Committee that the decision to involve a Bond Market Specialist in the issuance of Government Bonds was based on the recommendations by the World Bank and IMF in 2008. He explained that the involvement of the Bond Market Specialists concept was beneficial in the creation of a secondary market for the trading of Government Bonds to improve its liquidity and enhance investor interest and confidence.

#### **Determination of the country's public debt stock**

Addressing the Committee on the country's actual public debt situation, the nominee stated that public debts of the country stood at about GH¢276 billion, representing 11.6% of the country's GDP as at the end of December, 2020. On why the IMF after its meeting with Government reported the fiscal deficit to be 15.5% of the country's GDP, the nominee explained that the IMF included ESLA debt of about GH¢8 billion and Banking Sector Clean-up cost of about GH¢21 billion in its determination of the country's debt. He however disagreed with the IMF's calculations on the ground that, the ESLA debt was a private debt to be paid by ESLA-PLC on its own balance sheet which in his view should not be factored into the determination of total public debt stock and deficit. On the cost of the Banking

Sector Clean-up, the nominee indicated that it was a one-off expenditure, therefore, must be treated as a separate expenditure and not included in the determination of the public debt.

### **Cost of Banking Sector Clean-Up**

Responding to a question on the actual cost of the Banking Sector Clean-up undertaken by the Government in 2017, the nominee informed the Committee that, the Clean-up cost the State an amount in excess of GH¢21 billion. On whether other options were not available to address the challenges of the banking sector instead of the revocation of licences of affected institutions, the nominee stated that the Government had an option to inject capital using liquidity support from the Bank of Ghana. He indicated that the Government did not resort to this option in view of the fact that the challenges persisted and was becoming worse. This earlier experience provided no assurance to Government that the Banks could overcome the challenges if additional liquidity support was extended to them. He further indicated that, the challenges of the affected banks forged beyond liquidity constraints which if left unresolved could have crippled the entire Financial Sector.

On the indebtedness of contractors to the affected banks, the nominee explained to the Committee that the level of indebtedness of contractors to the affected banks, even when paid in full, could not resolve the liquidity challenges of the affected Banks. He disclosed that an analysis of one of the affected firms revealed that, Government indebtedness through contractors constitute only 10% of the total exposure of the Bank. According to him, Government's intervention was to avoid aggravating the problem and to protect jobs.

### **The Agyapa Royalties Agreement**

On whether he remains convinced about the securitisation of Ghana's Mineral Royalties, Mr. Adu-Boahen responded in the affirmative. He



explained that, the objective of the securitisation was to assist the Government to raise financial resources from a stream of future cash flows to undertake capital intensive projects. He indicated that if government intends to wait and receive the royalties as they accrue in bits, Government may not be able to undertake any substantial developmental or infrastructural projects. He hinted that many countries in the world have used the concept to raise revenue to finance critical infrastructure needed for development. He was of the opinion that, securitisation of the country's mineral royalties was one of the ingenious ways of raising resources to finance development in line with the President's vision of Ghana beyond aid.

He further explained that the Agyapa Royalties Agreement was not different from other forms of revenue securitization undertaken by Government. He cited the securitization of GETFund receivables which was used to finance the expansion of educational infrastructure in many schools across the country. The nominee informed the Committee that one of the legacies he intended to leave in the financial space as a Minister of State was the actualisation of the Agyapa Royalties Agreement.

The nominee indicated that the Minerals Royalties Agreement was adequate in its original form and a worthy cause being pursued by Government at the time. He explained that the processes were halted because of the lack of education about the concept and the period for Parliament to undertake due diligence on the documents, created erroneous impression in the minds of Ghanaians. These issues, he said, would be resolved prior to the reintroduction of the agreement. He assured the Committee that all the concerns of stakeholders would also be addressed especially the revision of the Structure of the Board.

### **Governments Incentives to Small Scale Business**

In response to a question on why schemes including tax incentives put in place by Government to support small and medium enterprises or businesses are not taken advantage of by the targeted beneficiaries, the nominee attributed the challenge to inadequate information and low public awareness. He cited the adoption rate of recent Government schemes to small businesses affected by the Covid-19 pandemic as an example. He noted that the challenge makes it difficult for the Government to achieve its intended objective to promote growth and sustain jobs and livelihoods among small and medium scale companies. He assured the Committee that if his nomination is approved, he intends to increase public awareness on the incentive schemes instituted by Government to support small and medium scale businesses especially the recent schemes aimed at post-Covid-19 recovery.

### **Leveraging National Reserves to Stimulate Post-Covid Recovery**

On why Ghana should not leverage its national reserves to finance post-covid reconstruction efforts, the nominee explained that, Ghana does not have sufficient reserve which could be relied upon to finance development projects. He indicated that Ghana presently has reserves of only four (4) months of import cover which must be protected and if possible further improved. He indicated that the reserves would deplete rapidly if an attempt is made to use it for other purposes rather than to finance imports. He advocated for the involvement of Banks in the post-covid reconstruction to ensure that contractors are paid on time to facilitate economic recovery.

### **Rationale for procuring credit facility to support the Establishment of National Development Bank**

Explaining the rationale for the procurement of a credit facility amounting to US\$173 million from the European Investment Bank to establish a National Development Bank at the time other state-owned

Banks are distressed and require urgent liquidity support, the Minister of State designate, indicated that the objectives of the proposed Development Bank are very different from that of Commercial Banks. He explained that, the proposed National Development Bank is not a deposit-taking institution. The Bank's role would be to procure credit at a cheaper cost and on-lend to other commercial Banks to finance development projects. He stated that development Banks have contributed enormously towards infrastructure development in many nations through funding support for capital intensive projects. He indicated, that when established the bank would play a critical role in the post-covid recovery efforts of the State.

#### **Payment of Judgment Debts**

Expressing his opinion on the payment of judgement debts, the nominee opined that judgment debts are part of the country's liability which must be settled when they incur. He indicated that, the Attorney-General is responsible for advising the Ministry of Finance on payment of judgment debts. He assured the Committee that judgment debts will only be honoured on the advice of the Attorney-General and also when resources are available for such purpose.

#### **Controlling the Growing National Debt**

Responding to a question on how to control the growing national debt, the nominee indicated that Ghana's expenditure has always exceeded its revenue, a situation which compels Government to either tax citizens or borrow to finance the deficit. He said there is a limit to which Government can tax citizens that is the reason why Government has to resort to borrowing to finance the deficit. He indicated that borrowing in itself is not in appropriate but what the funds borrowed will used for and the cost of the borrowing is the issue. He stated that, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Ghana was on the track of controlling its public debt.

He emphasised that the average growth rate of about 6% per annum and a positive primary balance at the time was an indication that funds borrowed were invested in the productive sectors of the economy. These gains chalked by the Government were, however, disrupted by the impact of Covid-19, compelling the Government to increase its borrowing to finance revenue shortfalls, and excess expenditure related to the fight against Covid-19. The additional Covid-19 related borrowing, for instance, increased the country's debt to GDP ratio to 76.8% by end of 2020.

He reminded the Committee that to finance the budget deficit for 2021, Parliament through the budget has given approval for the Ministry of Finance to borrow US\$5 billion through the issuance of Bonds for budget support and liability management. He stated that current circumstances make it difficult for Government to operate without borrowing. This notwithstanding, he assured the Committee that any borrowing that will be undertaken by Government will be done responsibly and that borrowed funds are invested in sectors that promote growth. Additionally, Government will ensure that the cost of borrowing is also kept low.

#### **Contribution of Covid-19 to the Public Debt**

In a response to a question on the actual contribution of Covid-19 to the public debt stock, the Minister designate stated that, the direct cost of Covid-19 to the economy stood at GH¢21 billion, of which GH¢18 billion was financed through borrowing and the remaining GH¢3 billion through taxes. Covid-19 expenses contributed to about 5.5% to the total debt stock. He attributed the situation to shortfalls in revenue due to the slowdown in economic activities, increasing Government expenditure on measures to control the pandemic and support to households and businesses.

### **Increased allocation to Office of Government Machinery**

Explaining the reasons for the substantial increase in resource allocation of about 500% to the Office of Government Machinery in 2021, the nominee alluded to investments in some critical initiatives including NABCO, Development Authorities, among others to stimulate growth as the major factor driving the allocations to the Office. He insisted that the allocations are not for consumption purposes. He assured the Committee that the allocation for Office of Government Machinery will be monitored to ensure they are expended on critical capital projects rather than on consumption.

### **Effects of New Tax Measures Introduced**

The nominee acknowledged that the new tax measures introduced by the Government in the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the 2021 financial year would have some impacts on the livelihoods of households and businesses albeit minimal. He indicated that Government is aware of the impact of the new taxes but finds it necessary to raise revenue to finance developments to revamp the economy on the path of growth as part of post-covid recovery efforts. He indicated that, Government had the option to opt for additional borrowing but that option could further worsen the countries debt burden. He sympathized with Ghanaians for the level of hardship in the country but was hopeful that the situation will improve when economic activities bounce back after the completion of the vaccination exercise.

### **Revenue Loss from the Termination of PDS Concession Agreement**

On whether the State lost any revenue due to the termination of the Concession Agreement with Power Distribution Services (PDS) Ghana, the nominee responded in the negative. He explained that the termination of the Agreement rather averted loss of revenue and critical state assets. He stated that the termination of the Agreement

unavoidable in view of the fact that the insurance guarantee supplied by PDS was found to be invalid. To that end, the Assets of Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) were exposed and needed to be protected. When asked about the level of due diligence conducted before the assets were handed over to PDS, the Minister of State designate indicated that he was not readily seized with the facts. On when revenues locked up in bank accounts covering the transaction will be released to ECG, the nominee informed the Committee of an ongoing reconciliation processes to hand over the resources to ECG. He was hopeful that, once the reconciliation is completed, the funds will be transferred to ECG to finance its operations. He was confident that the funds would be kept in interest bearing accounts to maintain its value.

#### **Payment to KRL International**

Explaining the circumstances that led to the payment of some US\$900,000 to KRL International two weeks before the actual contract was signed with the firm, the nominee indicated that KRL provided Public Relations Service to Ghana to enable it access the United States Department of State to negotiate on a number of bilateral issues in the interest of the country. The company, he indicated, is presently engaging and lobbying the US Government for the supply of Covid-19 vaccines to Ghana. He was of the opinion that the services provided by KRL so far has been very vital, justifying the payment made to the company. He disagreed with the suggestion that the payments were to show appreciation to the company for its public relation services provided to the New Patriotic Party (NPP) prior to the 2016 General Elections. On the mode of procurement of the services of KRL, the nominee informed the Committee that KRL was procured through sole sourcing with the prior approval of the Public Procurement Authority.

#### **Role as Minister of State at the Ministry of Finance**

Touching on his role as a Minister of State at the Ministry of Finance, the nominee said his role will be to support the Minister of Finance in executing his mandate. He stated that, the actual duties to be assigned him will be agreed on with the Minister and His Excellency the President if his nomination is approved. He was of the view that the volume of work at the Ministry of Finance necessitated the appointment of a Minister of State to assist the Minister of Finance in the execution of task at the Ministry.

#### **Financing of Infrastructure at the Local Levels**

On strategies he intends adopting to raise funds to finance infrastructure development at the Metropolitan, Municipal and District levels, the nominee expressed his desire to ensure the passage of the Municipal Finance Bill to help MMDAs raise resources to finance critical infrastructure projects at the local levels. He explained that his key concern was how to draft the bill such that MMDAs do not engage in reckless borrowing which will become contingent liability on the Government with its consequence on the growing public debt. He assured the Committee that if his nomination is approved, he will take steps to ensure the passage of the Bill.

#### **4.1.3 Recommendation**

The Committee, by Consensus, recommends to the House to approve the nomination of Mr. Charles Kofi Adu Boahen for appointment as Minister of State for Finance.

## **4.2 HON. BENITO OWUSU-BIO - DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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### **4.2.1 Background**

Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio was born on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1968 in Kumasi and hails from Atwima Akropong all in the Ashanti Region. He had his primary education at St. John's Preparatory Primary School in Accra from October, 1972 to July, 1976 and the Cambridge International School in Kumasi from September, 1976 to June, 1982. He attended Prempeh College for his G.C.E. Ordinary & Advanced Level Certificates from October, 1982 to November, 1989). He thereafter proceeded to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology from November, 1990 to June, 1994 and was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in Land Economy. He furthered his education at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom from September, 1996 to June, 1998 and was awarded a Master of Science degree in Hospitality Management.

Hon. Owusu-Bio undertook his national service at the School Library Project in Kumasi from September, 1989 to June, 1990 and again as a Trainee Land Officer at the Lands Commission in Kumasi from September, 1994 to June, 1995. He was the General Manager at Hotel Georgia Limited in Kumasi from November, 1998 to August, 2004.

The nominee is the Member of Parliament for the Atwima Nwabiagya Constituency and has held this position from January, 2005 to date. He has served on a number of Parliamentary Committees which include the Lands and Forestry, Public Accounts and the Local Government and Rural Development. He was a Member of the National Project Steering Committee for the Phase 2 of the Land Administration Project (LAP) from January 2013 to January, 2017.



#### 4.2.2 Responses to Questions

The Deputy Minister Designate responded to questions relating to areas under the following headings:

##### **New Land Law**

Responding to a question on the uniqueness of the Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036) the nominee indicated that successive governments over the years have grappled with the passage of a new land administration law to consolidate and codify all the issues relating to land administration into a single Act in order to address the overlap and duplication of functions. He explained that such a law is necessary to assist the public to know their rights and interest in acquiring and possessing land; enhancing public accountability; and improving the tenure and security of interests in land ownership. He added that the harmonisation of the land laws is crucial in ensuring sustainable land administration and management in the country. The nominee referred to provisions such as criminalisation of land guards, issues of vested lands being divested to pre-acquisition owners, and spousal property right as some of the new additions to promote effective administration of lands in the country.

##### ***Burning of Excavators as a deterrent to illegal mining***

Commenting on the legality of burning excavators owned by illegal miners, the nominee referred to Article 36 (9) of the 1992 Constitution which states that “the state shall take appropriate measures needed to protect and safeguard the national environment for posterity”. He was of the view that the present level of impunity by illegal miners coupled with the harm and destruction of the nation’s water bodies and the environment *has necessitated* the State *this* extraordinary measure to decommission and demobilise the perpetrators of illegal mining activities. The nominee pledged to assist the Hon Minister ensure sanity into the management of the nation’s natural resources upon approval of his nomination by Parliament.

### **Status of Afforestation Project**

Touching on the afforestation projects undertaken by the State, the nominee stated that successive governments have contributed in diverse ways through the Forestry Commission to 'Green Ghana' in order to preserve the forest reserves in the country. He indicated that the Ministry in collaboration with the Forestry Commission and Private Plantation Developers are still contributing their quota towards the Green Ghana project. The Deputy Minister Designate, informed the Committee that from 2016 to 2019 a significant number of 68,968.72 Ha of plantation was added to the country's forest reserves through the afforestation project. He added that the Ministry in collaboration with relevant stakeholders has begun a tree planting campaign to plant about 12.2 million trees by the end of December 2021 and to encourage the habit of tree planting across the country.

### **Tackling illegal Sand Winning Activities**

The Hon. Nominee admitted that sand winning has been one of the illegal activities recorded in recent times, causing a lot of havoc in some parts of the country. According to the nominee, some of the perpetrators have been smuggling the sand to neighbouring countries for commercial purposes. He stressed that urgent measures are required immediately to avert the situation to avert the destruction of the coastal landscape in the country. He informed the Committee that the Ministry through the Minerals Commission has taken measures to decentralise the issuance of permit at the district level to curb the delays in acquisition of necessary permits which has been the major contributory factor to illegal sand winning. He indicated that most people have no knowledge with regards to having a license prior to undertaking sand winning activities for commercial purposes. He added that when given the nod, he would assist the Minister and other relevant stakeholders to educate the public on the legal regime governing sand winning as well as its impact on the environment to curtail it.

### **Development of the Salt Mining Industry**

When asked about how he was going to assist the Minister to develop a robust salt mining industry in the country, the Hon nominee disclosed that research has revealed that the country is well endowed with a lot of salt deposits which could be harnessed for the benefit of the country. He lauded the initiative taken by the Minister to set up a Committee to come out with a proposal for the establishment of a Salt Authority to promote and regulate the sector. According to the nominee, the establishment of the Authority would ensure that the country maximizes the economic potential of salt deposits. He pledged to assist the Minister to embark on the development of the sector when his nomination is approved by the House.

### **Awareness in the Cultivation of Bamboo**

In an answer to a question on how the nominee would assist the Minister in creating the awareness on cultivating bamboo, he stated that the cultivation of bamboo has contributed immensely towards the revenue generation and socio-economic development of some nations around the world and therefore will prioritize its cultivation. He said the Ministry through the Forestry Commission has imported different species of bamboo for cultivation in the country. He informed the Committee that His Excellency the President would soon be planting some of the new species of bamboo at the Jubilee House to create the awareness on its economic importance. The nominee explained that bamboo grows faster and can serve as an alternative use for wood products and thereby serving as a check on climate change. He was of the view that investing in bamboo cultivation would enable the country generate more revenue, reduce the felling of trees and also reduce pressure on the forest resources in the country.

### **Disputes over Lands within the La Community**

In an answer to a question on the automatic release of lease Lands within the Greater Accra-La area to the owners, the nominee indicated that the recent tension between the Military and inhabitants of La areas was largely attributable to some misunderstanding on a previous decision by the Ministry on the management of the lands in the La enclave acquired by the State. He informed the Committee that the Ministry through the Lands Commission has established a fact-finding Committee to work with the La Traditional Council to resolve the issue. According to the nominee, the Committee has begun its work and had been briefed by the Military and some surveyors. He expressed the hope that the Committee will soon complete its work and make recommendations that would be acceptable to all the stakeholders.

### **Sale of Lands by the State**

The nominee held a contrary view in a response to a question on lands acquired by the State for a particular purpose get utilized being used for a different purpose other than the original purpose for which it was acquired. In his view, there should not be any challenge whatever in the use of the land for different purpose, provided it was being used for public good. He indicated that the Land Act, 2020 (Act 1030) which was recently passed by Parliament affirms his position. He, however, stated that it would be wrong on the part of the State not to compensate the custodians of the land before the sale to private investors. He assured the Committee of assisting the Minister to ensure the payment of compensations to the allodial owners of such lands after proper certification and identification.

### **Improving of the Country's Forest Cover**

In response to issues surrounding the high rate of depletion of the country's forest cover, the nominee observed that the situation was alarming given that the country's forest cover has suffered a depletion

of about 4.6 million Ha. He disclosed that the country's forest cover was about 8.2 million Ha including a 1.6 million Ha of dedicated forest estates at the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century. He stated that a number of initiatives are being rolled out by the Ministry through its agencies to reverse the trend. He added that the Ministry has also adopted a policy to plant trees in almost all parts of the country. When given the nod, he will assist the Minister to promote the planting of trees across the country.

**Reducing the cost of transaction in the registration of Land Title**

Commenting on the time and transactional cost involved in the acquisition of land title in the country, the nominee blamed the difficulties in land title registrations especially in Greater Accra and Kumasi largely on the manual system of transaction and the use of aged topographical maps which have not been updated since 1974. He indicated that efforts are being made through the Land Administration Project to ensure that the country has an accurate, up to date and accessible data to reduce the cost of transaction cost. He informed the Committee that the Ministry is also taking practical steps to digitize all its land documents to minimise the duration in the registration of land.

**4.2.3 Recommendation**

The Committee, by Consensus, recommends to the House to approve the nomination of Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio for appointment as Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources.

### **4.3 HON. AUGUSTINE COLLINS NTIM - DEPUTY MINISTER- DESIGNATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DECENTRALISATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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#### **4.3.1 Background**

Hon. Augustine Collins Ntim was born on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1964 at Nkenkaasu in the Ashanti Region. He started his primary education at Roman Catholic Middle School, Nkenkaasu from 1969 to 1978. He attended T. I. Ahmaddiya Secondary School, Kumasi from 1978 to 1983 for his Ordinary Level Certificate. He continued at the Sunyani Secondary School, Sunyani for his Advanced Level Certificate from 1985 to 1987. He proceeded to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science Technology where he obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biological Science in 1994 and Master's Degree in Reproductive Biology in 2000.

The nominee did his National Service at the Rural Health Centre, Nkenkaasu from 1982 to 1983 and again at Damango Secondary School, Damango, from 1994 to 1995.

Hon Ntim taught at the T.I. Ahmaddiya Secondary School between 1997 and 2005. In 1998, the nominee became a Teaching Assistant at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science Technology. In 2003, the nominee was elected as an Assembly Member to the Offinso District Assembly and was later appointed as the District Chief Executive of the Assembly from 2005 to 2009. The nominee is the Chief Executive Officer of Collins A.C. & C Co. Ltd.

He is the currently the Member of Parliament (MP) for the Offinso-North Constituency in the Eighth Parliament after having served in the Fifth, Sixth and the Seventh Parliaments as the MP of the same

Constituency. He was appointed as the Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development during the first tenure of the current President and was made a Member of the Ministerial Advisory Board under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture between 2017 and January, 2021.

The nominee served on a number of Committees in the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Parliaments including the Poverty Reduction Strategy, Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs, Privileges and Health. He currently serves on the Members Holding Office of Profit and Youth and Sports Committees of the Eighth Parliament.

#### 4.3.2 **Responses to Questions**

The nominee responded to questions relating to areas under the following headings:

##### **Fiscal Decentralisation**

The nominee agreed with the suggestion that there cannot be proper decentralisation and local governance without requisite financing. He indicated that the Assemblies cannot always depend on the central Government for the financing of their development projects. He mentioned that the Assemblies are empowered to generate their own revenue from many sources within the local government system, including property rates, permits, licences, and fines. He attributed the inability of the Assemblies to generate the needed revenue for development to capacity constraints and failure to deploy the requisite technology. According to the nominee, the ongoing government digitisation programme, street and property naming exercise, and the national identification infrastructure would empower the Assemblies to identify all properties and persons for the purposes of taxation.

The nominee advocated for the continuous support for the Assemblies in the development of local enterprises. The establishment of the enterprises, he said, would contribute significantly to create employment and the condition for citizens to honour their obligation to the Assemblies. He assured the Committee that he would support the Minister to build the capacity of the Assemblies and to deploy the requisite technologies to improve the revenue generation of the Assemblies.

### **Sanitation in the country**

On what the nominee will do to support the Ministry address the sanitation situation in the country, the nominee agreed that sanitation is a major issue confronting the country. He stated that the sanitation challenge in the country is a priority of the Government as evident in the creation of the Ministry of Sanitation to purposely address this concern with the coordination of policy measures to holistically address sanitation issues in the country. He stressed that, although there is a Ministry responsible for sanitation, all the programmes in respect of sanitation are implemented by the Assemblies. In this regard, the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development should continue to empower and build the capacity of the Assemblies and provide them with the logistics to implement the sanitation policies.

### **Resources for Assembly Members**

The nominee supports the proposition to assist Assemblymen with logistics to enable them deliver on their mandate. He recognised that Assemblymen travel long distances to interact and engage with community members. According to the nominee, over the years the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development have provided motorbikes to Assemblymen to aid their work. He informed the Committee that the Ministry distributed over 10,000 motorbikes to Assembly members in the year 2020 to aid their



mobility. On whether the Government fuels the motorbikes used by the Assemblymen and provides them with allowances, the nominee stated that the Assembly provides allowances to the Assemblymen, which is consistent with the Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 932). He implored the Assemblies to generate more revenue and support the Assemblymen to deliver on their mandate.

### **Developmental Plans of MMDAs**

On how the nominee will make the MMDAs more independent, he stated that, the Assemblies are programmed to deliver on a set of public goods, and they do so within the framework of the district plans. He informed the Committee that the Ministry supervises the District Plans to ensure that the programmes align with Government priorities and the country's long-term development plan. The nominee indicated that the Ministry only supervises and does not interfere or impose programmes on the Assemblies.

### **Department of Parks and Gardens**

On what the nominee will do to ensure that the Department of Parks and Gardens regains its lost glory, the nominee stated that the service of the Department of Parks and Gardens' are essential as they broaden the aesthetic value of the city. According to the nominee, the Department's activities are confined to the major cities of the country. He pledged to assist the Minister to decentralise the activities of the Department to the other MMDAs to enable the department spearhead the aesthetic and beautification agenda in the country.

### **Status of the Market Projects in the country**

When the nominee was asked about the status of the ongoing redevelopment of the Kumasi Market Phase two and the Takoradi Market Cycle project, the nominee stated that the Kumasi Phase one had been completed and handed over to the Assembly. He stated that Parliament has approved a facility for the Phase two. He added that

phase two has commenced despite the initial challenges with the relocation of traders and utilities. Regarding the Takoradi market, he said feasibility studies have been completed paving the way for the relocation of the traders. He disclosed that the site has also been handed over to the contractor.

### **Establishment of Cashew Development Board**

As to why the Cashew Development Authority Board has not been established, the nominee stated that as part of Government's policy of promoting agriculture to transform the rural economy and trigger rural industrialisation, the planting for export and rural development programme was launched. According to the Deputy Minister-Designate, the programme has three levels of support. The first was the on-farm support, where the Assemblies provided free seedlings to the farmers and provided extension services. The second pillar is the business support programme where the farmers are educated and placed in cooperatives. The third pillar is the legal reforms that necessitated the enactment of the Tree Crop Development Authority Act, 2019 (Act 1010). The Act provides for the establishment of the Tree Crop Development Authority. The Authority is responsible for marketing, licencing, certification, pricing, and research. In addition to the cashew, the nominee stated that six other crops had been identified, including mango, shea, oil palm, coffee, and coconut. The nominee was of the view that the establishment of a Board to superintend over all tree crops is more appropriate than for only cashew. On what steps he will take to ensure that farmers are given guaranteed price, the nominee stated that when the Authority is established, prices of the crops identified would be guaranteed just as it is done with cocoa.

### **One-District-One-Factory in Offinso**

As part of the Government's vision to add value to the agriculture produce, Offinso North has been programmed car marked for three

factories. A cashew processing plant have also been earmarked for Nkenkenso. The nominee informed the Committee that a strategic investor has been contacted to support the construction of the factory. The second factory which is a tomato processing factory will be located at Akumadan. As part of the preparatory work to build a reliable raw material base and promote innovation in the cultivation of tomatoes, a greenhouse technology for the cultivation of tomatoes has been established at Akumadan. The third is the establishment of a starch factory which is about 85% complete.

#### 4.3.3 **Recommendation**

The Committee, by Consensus, recommends to the House to approve the nomination of Hon. Augustine Collins Ntim or appointment as Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development

### **4.4 HON. OSEI BONSU AMOAH - DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DECENTRALISATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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#### 4.4.1 **Background**

Hon. Osei Bonsu Amoah was born on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1961 at Aburi in the Eastern Region of Ghana. He began his basic education in 1965 at the State Experimental Primary School in Kumasi. He continued at the Local Authority Primary School in Tapa between 1967 and 1968 and completed his basic education in 1972 at the Local Authority Primary School, New Nsuta, Obuasi. He gained admission to the Presbyterian Boys Boarding School between 1972 and 1974 for his West African Common Entrance Examination. In 1974, he was admitted to Prempeh College in Kumasi where he obtained his Ordinary and Advanced Level Certificates in 1979 and 1981

respectively. In September, 1981, the nominee enrolled at the University of Ghana where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science in 1985. Between 1988 and 1989, Hon. Amoah pursued a basic course in Taxation at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). He later enrolled in the Ghana School of Law in 1991 and was called to the Bar in 1995.

Hon. O. B. Amoah began his career as a tutor in the Bawku Secondary School and Labone Secondary School in 1985 through to 1987. Between 1988 and 1998, he worked as Tax Inspector at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). After he was called to the Bar, he undertook his pupillage at Quansah and Co., Nyimawo Chambers after graduating from the Ghana School of Law and later became a Member of the Chamber. In 2001, he was appointed as a special assistant at the office of the President where he worked with the Vice President until he was appointed a Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Sports in 2005.

The nominee was the Member of Parliament for the Aburi-Nsawam Constituency from 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 to 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2013. He has been the Member of Parliament for Akuapem South Constituency since 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 to date. He has served on several Parliamentary Committees including Government Assurance, Constitutional Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Orders, Subsidiary Legislation Committee, Youth and Sports and the Appointments Committee. He has also chaired the Subsidiary Legislation. He was also a member of the ECOWAS Parliament and Committee on Economic Policies, Private Sector and NEPAD, from February to March, 2017.

The nominee is a Member of the Ghana Bar Association and has also served on several Boards including the Tema Lube Oil, the National Media Commission, the Executive Council and Legal Committee of the

NPP among others. Hon. O. B. Amoah has participated in several training, conferences and capacity building programmes in GIMPA, Germany, Canada, Ethiopia and Benin. He has also conducted extensive research work in the areas of Delegated Legislation, Sports, State Owned Enterprises and the Role of Parliament.

#### 4.4.2 Nominee's Responses to Questions

The nominee responded to questions relating to areas under the following headings:

##### **Addressing Conflicts between MPs and MMDCEs**

The nominee admitted that conflicts do exist between Members of Parliament and their Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs). The conflicts often border on the utilisation of the Common Fund and related constituency developmental issues. He said, in the past, the Minister for Local Government had to intervene and issue threat to sanction some of the MMDCEs involved. He agreed that the Minister could request that the MPs Share of the Common Fund in the Assembly must only be expended with the approval of the MP. He suggested the proposed election of MMDCEs is one of the measures to resolve the challenge. He indicated that the resolution of issues forms part of the many reasons why the NPP Government intended to hold a referendum on the Constitutional Amendment Bill in December 2019 but was not successful because of the lack of consensus among stakeholders on the Bill. He further advocated for consultation on the proposed election of MMDCEs either on a partisan or non-partisan lend to address the issue.

##### **Financing Development at District Levels**

The nominee acknowledged that some form of financing mechanism is necessary to achieve fiscal decentralisation in the country since not all District Assemblies are well-endowed in terms of revenue mobilisation.

He stated that the Ministry has over the years attempted to resolve the funding challenges at the districts levels through the regular review and application of the Common Fund formula, the utilization of District Assemblies Performance Assessment Tool (DPAT) to provide special support fund to less endowed districts and the introduction of revenue measures to improve IGFs of MMDCEs. He indicated that the introduction of Municipal Bonds is under consideration for the enacting of a Local Government Financing Bill. The intent of the Bill would be to authorize the MMDAs to borrow to undertake capital projects. He promised to assist his Minister to revive engagements on the Bill including its submission to Cabinet and Parliament for approval to support the District Assemblies to raise needed funds.

#### **Cost of Fumigation Exercise**

When asked about the cost of the fumigation exercises carried out by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development during the onset of the covid pandemic, the nominee said the exercise was very useful in maintaining hygienic conditions and reducing the spread of the disease at market places. He indicated that the fumigation exercise was in phases and that the only cost he was aware of is GH¢76million which was announced by the Minister as the cost of the first phase during the press conference held in August 2020 by the hon. Minister. He informed the Committee that thousands of markets, churches and mosques were fumigated during the exercise.

#### **Payment of Contractors Engaged by Messrs Ghana First Company**

Commenting on the role of the Ministry of Local Government in the engagement of about 1,486 contractors by Messrs Ghana First Company under a Public Private Partnership arrangement to undertake various projects at the district levels, the nominee informed the Committee that the Ministry's role was limited to the introduction of the company to the District Assemblies and to request the District

Assemblies to ensure that they comply with procedures governing public-private partnership arrangements in their dealings with the company. He stated that the non-payment of moneys due the contractors and the operations of Messrs Ghana First Company is currently under investigation by National Security.

### **Review of Decentralisation Policy**

Answering a question on the review of the country's decentralisation policy, the nominee indicated that the Ministry adopted a new policy which spans from 2020 to 2024 after reviewing the policy which ended in 2019. He disclosed that the new decentralisation policy places emphasis on local economic development and strategies for revenue measures, employment, rural development, as well as popular participation, fiscal, political and administrative decentralisation.

### **Promoting Accountability at Local Government Level**

The nominee acknowledged that accountability at the local government levels is crucial to the sustenance of democracy. This resulted in the institution of mechanisms such as budget hearings and town hall meetings on fiscal allocations were provided for in the Local Government Act, 2016 (Act 936). According to him, adherence to the accountability measures stipulated in Act 936 form the basis for budgetary allocations to the Assemblies and assessment of MMDCEs who are seeking re-appointment. He pledged to support the Minister to ensure MMDAs comply with the accountability measures, even as discussions are ongoing to expand the criteria for allocation of funds.

### **Review of Electoral Boundaries**

The nominee agreed with the observation that some Assembly Members have a larger population base in their electoral areas to serve, compared to others. He further agreed that such situations could impact on services required of Assembly Members. He disclosed that the Ministry had also observed similar situations in some parts of

the Greater Accra Region where some Assemblymen are serving electoral areas of about 18,000 population while others less. He informed the Committee that the Electoral Commission began the creation of new electoral areas in some parts of Accra to address the situation. He assured the Committee of assisting his Minister to appeal to the Electoral Commission to create more Electoral areas in constituencies where the Electoral Areas are too large.

#### **Utilisation of Revenues of MMDCEs**

On what he would do to reduce the use of about 90% of MMDAs share of the Common Fund on recurrent expenditure as reported in the 2019 Annual Progress Report of the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), the nominee expressed his displeasure at the revelation noting that the practice has the tendency to impact on the pursuit of capital projects by the MMDAs. He stated that if approved by the house to serve as Deputy Minister he would support his Minister to reverse the trend. He advocated for the use of efficient measures in the utilisation of Common Funds as an indicator for the assessment of the performance of MMDCEs to enable the MMDCEs sit up.

#### **Views on State Financing Political Parties**

On his views about political party funding, the nominee shared in the concern of many stakeholders about the need to streamline political party funding in the country in the wake of recent increase in the monetisation of politics. He stated that the Political Parties Act, 2000 (Act 574) provide for the regulation of funding activities of political parties, there are still some challenges in complying with such provisions. He alluded to a recent legislation passed by South Africa to address some issues of political party funding and advocated that the country examines the legislation and others in operations in other part of the world for use in the country. He did not object to suggestions about State funding of political parties because in his



view the presidential system is very expensive compared to the parliamentary system of governance.

#### **Improving Human Resource Capacity at the Local Government Level**

On strategies he will adopt to support his Minister improve the human resource capacity at the local government level, the nominee stated that the issue was of concern to him. He recounted how the 2016 Bill had specified minimum requirements for the position of MMDCEs. He informed the Committee that the Ministry had put in a provision in the Local Government Bill, 2016 to provide criteria for the appointment of MMDCEs but was rejected by the Committee on Local Government and Rural Development because the Committee felt the provision set standards which were far above those stipulated in the Constitution, like the minimum qualification of an individual to become a Member of Parliament or President of the Republic.

#### **Financial support to the Peace Council**

On whether he subscribes to the proposition that portions of the Common Fund should be ceded to support the work of Peace Council in all districts, the nominee welcomed the idea and emphasised that the role of the Peace Council in maintaining peace and stability in the country cannot be glossed over. He said the Fund presently supports activities of persons living with disability, lepers among others and that it is an area that he was ready to support his Minister to engage further on.

#### **4.4.3 Recommendation**

The Committee, by Consensus, recommends to the House to approve the nomination of Hon. Osei Bonsu Amoah for appointment as Deputy Minister for Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development.

## **4.5 HON. WILLIAM OWURAKU AIDOO - DEPUTY MINISTER- DESIGNATE FOR ENERGY**

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### **4.5.1 Background**

Hon. William Owuraku Aidoo was born on 30th January, 1964 in Wenchi in the then Brong Ahafo Region but hails from Hemang-Ankaase in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. He had his Basic Education at the Ashanti New Town L/A Primary School in Kumasi from 1969 to 1975. Between 1975 and 1980, he gained admission to Opoku Ware Secondary School in Kumasi where he obtained his Ordinary Level Certificate.

He continued at the William Parker School Hastings, Sussex, United Kingdom, and he obtained his Advanced Level Certificate in 1982. From 2003 to 2006 he enrolled at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and obtained a BA (Hons) in Entrepreneurship. He later had his L.L.B Degree from the same institution from 2010 to 2013. He is currently a student at the Ghana School of Law where he enrolled in 2014 to become a Barrister at Law.

Between 1982 and 1985, the nominee was a Police Officer at the Sussex Police department in the United Kingdom and moved on to become a Sales/Exhibition Executive of Alfred Dunhill Ltd, London SW1, United Kingdom from 1985 to 1994. From 1994 to 1998 he was a Settlement and Bank Reconciliation Executive in NIG Skandia Stock Brokers, City of London, E. C. 1, United Kingdom (UK). He was a Managing Director of Kucons Company Limited, Ghana from 1999 to 2012.

He has been a Member of Parliament for Afigya Kwabre South Constituency from January 2013 till date and has served on a number

of Committees including Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Subsidiary Legislation, Foreign affairs, Business and Privileges Committees and Mines and Energy and Chaired the same Committee from January to March until he was nominated as Deputy Minister to the Energy Ministry from April 2017 to January 2021. The Nominee was also a Co-Chairman for the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and Committee of Ministers (ECOWAS MINISTERS OF ENERGY).

Mr. Owuraku Aidoo has, in the last few years had the opportunity to lead Government delegations in several fora in many countries including Togo, Ivory Coast, the E.U, United Kingdom, Russia, the United Arab Emirate, United States of America, among others. He also participated in the Benchmarking of Best Practices of the International Oil and Gas Law, Trinidad and Tobago in 2016, International Petroleum Agreements Law, Leitner Centre for International Law and Justice, Fordham School of Law, New York, 2011 as well as several short courses supported by the Agencies under his Ministry.

#### **4.5.2 Nominee's Responses to Questions**

The nominee responded to questions relating to areas under the following headings:

##### **Increasing Renewable Energy in the Generation Power Mix**

In explaining the practical steps the nominee would undertake to assist the Sector Minister in his efforts at increasing the renewable energy in the generation mix, the deputy minister-designate indicated that renewable energy has become the preferred sources of energy globally in view of its minimal effect on the environment. He explained that evolution in technology has made renewable energy such as solar (which used to be more expensive) now cheaper than thermal sources.

He was optimistic that successful completion of the ongoing renewable energy projects such as the 50MW Solar and 60MW hydro Pwalugu Multi-purpose Dam Project, the 75MW Wind Power Project at Anloga, and the 19.6MW Solar Project at Lawra and Kaleo, and the 1MW Rooftop Jubilee House project would considerably increase the renewable energy in the power generation mix. The Nominee stated that the exclusion of hydroelectric power sources such as the Akosombo Dam and Bui Power from total renewable energy mix in Ghana is not in conformity with international classifications. Accordingly, he recommends for the inclusion of hydroelectric power sources in the classification of renewable to have a better appreciation of the overall efforts in the renewable energy drive.

In a related question on how local capacity could be enhanced to lead the development of renewable energy, the Nominee responded that currently solar energy development is being driven by the private sector. The government's role is the creation of the enabling environment and for empowering Bui Power Authority to invest in large scale utility for renewable power sources. He added that other renewable energy sources such as geothermal potential in Ghana is presently non-existent but tidal waves and bio-mas have high potential except to say that bio-mas generation is quite expensive.

He hinted that work towards Nuclear power generation is progressing steadily. The Owner-Operator has been selected and discussions concerning the selection of Vendors is also ongoing for nuclear generation.

### **Increasing Electricity Access Rate**

The nominee was asked about progress towards achieving 100% rural electrification access rate and timelines. In answering the question, the Nominee gave the current electricity access rate as 85% and expressed some skepticism about the possibility of achieving 100% within the shortest possible time, considering the remote and sparsely

populated nature of some communities across the country. He was, however, hopeful that investment in off-grid power sources such as solar and mini-hydro projects for the communities in remote areas would accelerate the progress towards achieving the 100% access rate in the future. The Nominee attributed the slow progress to financial constraints and the fact that the rural electrification projects littered across the country without adequate corresponding funding. He pledged to advise the Minister to ensure completion of all the ongoing projects dotted across the country before initiating new projects.

### **Power Distribution Services (PDS) Concession**

The nominee disputed the assertion that the current power outages is partly attributable to the withdrawal of \$US190 million by the Millennium Development Corporation as a result of the termination of the Power Distribution Services Concession Agreement (PDS). He explained that, the said amount was intended for a different project in the concession and not the grid enhancement programme GRIDCo is currently undertaking upon which is scheduled for completion by the end of this year. In a related question as to why PDS is still in possession of an alleged amount of US\$200m meant for Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG), the Nominee confirmed knowledge of some money which ought to be transferred to ECG by PDS but denied knowledge of the actual amount. He indicated that the reconciliation process was not completed before PDS took the matter to court so the actual amount is still not determined.

The Nominee stated that he was no regret for the termination of the PDS concession, adding that, the government ought to be commended for due diligence and for safeguarding the assets of the ECG upon realizing that PDS did not have the requisite Demand Guarantee which was a critical requirement in preserving the sanctity of the Agreement.

### **Street Lighting**

The Committee expressed concern about the slow progress towards community and urban street lighting, and in particular, the poor maintenance of the few ones which have been installed. The Nominee shared in the concern and pledged to advent the sentiments of the Committee when approved by the house to serve as Deputy Minister. At his personal level, the Nominee suggested for a stakeholder engagement to obtain appropriate solution to address with the problems of theft which is impeding the government Street lighting policy to ensure that every part of the country is illuminated to improve visibility at night. He was of the view that the installation of solar lights with cameras and alarm systems may reduce the theft, but the Committee noted that solar batteries are equally prone to theft, and the cost of maintaining them is also high. The Committee further noted that although, the Assemblies are responsible for the maintenance of the Street Lights, yet the Streetlight levies intended for maintenance are collected and retained by the Minister responsible for power. The Committee recommends that part of the levies should be transferred to the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) for the maintenance of street lights in the country.

### **Waste to Energy**

In explaining the inherent challenges impeding the conversion of waste to generate energy, the Nominee indicated that such investment is currently not financially viable on a large scale utility generation. Although, the nominee conceded that huge sums of money is expended on waste management in the country but the cost of power generation from biomass is very expensive. Nevertheless, the Committee urges the Nominee to explore better technology and also undertake economic feasibility as opposed to financial viability to unearth other related benefits.



Hon. Osei-Asare later attended the University of Ghana from 1999 to 2003 to pursue a degree programme and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree in Economics and Geography. Between 2013 and 2015, she pursued a Master's Programme at the University of Ghana where she obtained a Master of Science (MSc) in Development Finance.

Hon. Osei-Asare started work as a National Service Person with the Office of the President's Special Initiative in Garments and Textiles from September, 2003 to August 2004. She later worked as an Assistant Director for Finance and Facilities with the New York University (Ghana Campus) from August 2004 to November, 2007. She also worked with the Barclays Bank Treasury Department as a Dealer and Sales Person from February, 2009 to December, 2012.

Hon. Abena Osei-Asare has been the Member of Parliament for Atiwa East Constituency from 7th January, 2013 to date and the Deputy Minister of Finance from April 2017 to January 2021. As a Member of Parliament, Hon. Abena Osei-Asare has served on a number of Committees of the House including Finance, Public Accounts, Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprises. She was also a Member of the Parliamentary Service Board from January 2017 to 6th January, 2021.

The nominee is a Fellow of Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA), UK and Certified Forex Dealer-Financial Markets Association (ACI). Hon. Abena Osei-Asare has attended a number of capacity building programmes and conferences on Public Financial Management Systems for Members of the Public Accounts Committee in New Delhi, India in November, 2016. She also participated in the 134<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Conference in Lusaka, Zambia in March 2016 and the International Labour Organisation Conference (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland in July 2016, among others.



The Nominee has held leadership positions in many institutions such as Social Security National Insurance Trust (SSNIT), National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), Ghana Integrated Aluminum Development Corporation (GIADEC) and Agriculture Development Bank (ADB). She was the New Patriotic Party (NPP) Finance Committee Member for the Atiwa Constituency from 2008 to 2010 and the Party's Polling Station Women's Organiser for the Atiwa Constituency from 2008 to 2010. Hon. Abena Osei-Asare is married and a mother of three children.

#### **4.6.2 Nominee's Responses to Questions**

The nominee responded to questions relating to areas under the following headings:

##### **Role as Deputy Minister of Finance**

Explaining her role as Deputy Minister for Finance in the last four years, the nominee indicated that she was the Deputy Minister in charge of Budgets. Her duties were to assist the Minister of Finance in the implementation of the national Budget. The nominee informed the Committee that, she will bring on board her experience as a Banker, Member of Parliament, Deputy Minister and excellent working relationship with her superior, colleagues and the entire staff of the Ministry of Finance. She opined that, an individual may have all the knowledge and skills to perform a task, but may not achieve anything if the individual does not possess an excellent skill in interpersonal and working relationship. She said she intends deploying such skills this time around to reach her goal as the Deputy Minister when given the nod.

### **Deficit Targets in the 2020 Budget**

Explaining the circumstances that resulted in Government missing its deficit target for the 2020 financial year, the nominee indicated that, the government set out to achieve a budget deficit target of 6.8% in the 2020 budget. The target was, however, derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic which saw government closing the year at 11.6% of GDP. On whether she agrees with the IMF that Ghana's deficit stands at 15.5% and not 11.6% reported by the government in the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government for the 2021 financial year, the nominee indicated that the two figures were as a result of how the two institutions decided to treat some expenditure items and their classification.

She explained that, Government did not include expenditure incurred in the Banking Sector Clean-up and Energy Sector debt in the computation of the end of year deficit because these are one off expenditure. The IMF on the other hand decided to add the two expenditure items thereby arriving at a higher end of year deficit of 15.5% of GDP. She explained that, government has always reported on the two items of expenditure just as the IMF but the point of departure is how the two expenditure items should be treated. Responding to a question on whether the two items are debts that must be paid, the nominee responded in the affirmative. She however added that, the two items are always accounted for as part of the national debt but are always taken out in the determination of the deficit.

### **Concerns of SSNIT Contributors and Pensioners**

Responding to a question as to whether her attention was drawn to concerns of SSNIT contributors and pensioners on the issues of computations of past credits following the coming into force of Act 766, low returns on SSNIT investments and low lump sum payments, the Deputy Minister designate responded in the affirmative. She

explained that, the attention of the Board of SSNIT has been drawn to the issue of delay transfer of past credit and disclosed that some engagements were on going with the labour unions to resolve the issues. She assured the Committee that, the issue will be resolved as soon as practicable.

On the low returns on SSNIT investments, the nominee admitted that some of the investments undertaken by SSNIT were not yielding the desired returns. To address the challenge, reforms have been introduced into the investment regime at SSNIT to ensure that funds are invested in high yielding instrument to attract the desired returns for contributors. Addressing the concerns of low lump sum payment on retirement, Hon. Abena Osei-Asare explained that there is an agreed formula for the determination of lump sum due contributors on retirement. She called for regular engagement with labour on the formula for lump sum payment to reduce the apprehension associated with its application.

#### **Indebtedness of National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to Service Providers**

On the issue of indebtedness of the National Health Insurance Scheme to Service providers, the nominee indicated that the Scheme by its mode of operation always pay claims in arrears. She informed the Committee that the scheme is performing very well and have paid claims up to December 2020. She further informed the Committee that, the NHIS is currently processing January and February claims for payment. She indicated that delays in claim payment is partly attributable to delays on the part of service providers to submit claims on time. She assured the Committee that the government is committed to settling all outstanding liabilities to service providers as and when they fall due. To this end government issued a bond in 2020 to settle outstanding obligations of the scheme.

On the issue of discrimination in the payment of claims, the nominee indicated that, the payment of claims is the duty of management, and that the Board is not involved in the day-to day administration of the Scheme. She, however, assured the Committee that, if her nomination is approved, she will engage management to address the concerns of discrimination in the payment of the claims to service providers. On the effect of delayed payment on the operations of Private Service Providers, the nominee called for a review of the claims processing regime to ensure that all claims submitted are paid within six months. She further urged NHIS to prioritize payment to private service providers to ensure the availability of funds to run the facilities.

### **Increasing Public Sector Wages**

The nominee lamented that, although the level of wages are relatively low, public sector wages constitute significant portion of government expenditure accounting for about 50-54% of tax revenue compared to an average of 34% in the West African Sub Region. She advocated for increased revenue generation to reverse the trend which she described as unsustainable. The nominee proposed an increased support to the private sector to increase production to improve revenue generation. Additionally, government must embark on aggressive tax collection and seal all loopholes in tax administration.

On whether the increasing levels of compensation as proportion to tax revenue accounted for the rumoured freeze in public wage increases, at least for the next three years, the nominee disputed the rumour. She on the other hand explained that, Government commenced negotiations with labour in February 2020 which was intended to factor the outcomes into the 2021 annual budget for implementation to commence in January. However, due to the measures introduced to curb the spread of Covid-19 during the period, negotiations stalled. She further informed the Committee that, government has engaged the Tripartite Committee to determine the minimum wage for 2021

and that once negotiations are concluded, public sector wages will be adjusted and wage increment would be announced by end of June 2021.

### **Delays in Payment to Contractors**

The Deputy Minister designate in addressing the issues relating to delays in payments to road contractors explained that there are several competing needs for the nation's limited resources. The Ministry of Finance is confronted daily with demands from all sectors of the economy for resources to meet their specific needs. She indicated that, to address the challenge, the Ministry has consistently increased resources allocation to the Ministry of Roads to enable it meet obligations to contractors who have been engaged on various road projects. She advocated for the introduction of innovative financing schemes including Public Private Partnerships (PPP) to finance capital intensive road projects in the Country. This, in her opinion, will ensure availability of funds to pay contractors on time and also ensure timely completion of road projects.

### **Funding For Agenda 111**

Explaining the source of funding for the Governments ambitious programme to construct a 100-bed District Hospitals in One-Hundred and One (101) Districts with no hospitals, seven (7) Regional Hospitals for the new Regions, including one for the Western Region, the construction of two (2) new Psychiatric Hospitals for the Middle Belt and Northern Belt, respectively, and the rehabilitation of the Effia-Nkwanta Hospital in the Western Region dubbed "Agenda 111", the nominee assured the Committee that allocation has been made in the 2021 budget to finance the project. She explained that the projects forms part of the overall measures instituted to overhaul the countries health infrastructure in order to curb the spread and fight the COVID-19 pandemic. To this end the cost of construction of the 111 Health

facilities constitutes the amount of GH¢4.52 billion allocated in the 2021 Budget for Covid-19 expenditures.

#### **Parliamentary Scrutiny of the Budget of the Bank of Ghana**

On whether she believes Parliament should scrutinize the annual budget of the Bank of Ghana in accordance with Article 184(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, the nominee indicated that, since Bank of Ghana is a public entity, Parliament is clothed with the authority to demand for the annual budget and work plan of the Bank. She explained that, in the present scheme of things, although the budget of the Bank is not scrutinised, the Auditor-General audits the expenditure of the Bank of Ghana and reports to Parliament. She advised Parliament to tread cautiously so that its efforts to demand for parliamentary scrutiny of the budget of Central Bank does not compromise the independence of the Bank.

#### **Establishment of the National Development Bank**

Explaining the justification for the establishment of a National Development Bank when other state owned Banks could be re-capitalised to achieve the same purpose, the nominee indicated that the proposed National Development Bank is intended to perform functions distinct from the role of a normal commercial bank. She explained that the decision to establish a National Development Bank is part of efforts to reconstruct the economy after the impact of Covid-19. She assured the committee that the bank will operate to provide financing to other banks to finance capital intensive projects to propel economic growth and development. The National Development Bank is not intended to compete with existing banks for deposit mobilization and consumer credits.

### **Increased Budgetary Allocation to the Office of Government Machinery**

Explaining the reasons for 500% increase in resource allocation to the Office of Government Machinery in the 2021 Appropriation, the Deputy Minister nominee attributed the increase in resource allocation to realignment of state agencies. She explained that, following the government realignment program which aims at collapsing some ministries and also ensure direct executive supervision over the activities of certain critical areas, a number of institutions including MASLOC, NABCO, NYEP, etc. have now been placed under the Office of Government machinery. The allocation, therefore, included the expenditure of the above-mentioned institutions. She explained that allocation to NABCO alone amounts to over GH¢1 billion.

### **Rationale for the Introduction of New Taxes**

Responding to a question on whether government has changed its philosophy to move from taxation to production as evident in the number of new taxes introduced by the Government in the 2021 budget, the deputy Minister nominee explained that Government is committed to focusing more on production rather than taxation in line with its promise to the people. She indicated that the agenda was implemented between 2017 through to 2019 and it worked well yielding the desired economic dividend as witnessed in stable currency, average economic growth rate of 6% and stable macro-economic environment during the period. She explained that the introduction of some new taxes were necessitated by the effect of Covid-19 pandemic on the economy. The taxes were introduced to raise resources to pay for the additional expenditure incurred during the peak of the pandemic.

### **Why should Ghana continue to Borrow?**

On why Ghana should continue to borrow considering the high debt to GDP ratio, the nominee indicated that Ghana will continue to borrow to finance critical development projects so long as its expenditure exceed its revenue. She explained that, revenue shortfalls in every economy is either financed through borrowing or imposition of additional taxes. She indicated that, since government need resources to finance critical social programs, borrowing is one option available to government to raise resources to finance development programs and projects. She was also emphatic that, government will continue to borrow to finance the implementation of projects that are commercial in nature since they have the ability to generate sufficient resources to pay back the credit.

#### 4.6.3 **Recommendation**

The Committee, by Consensus, recommends to the House to approve the nomination of Hon. Abena Osei Asare for appointment as Deputy Minister for Finance.

### **4.7 HON. YAW FRIMPONG ADDO- DEPUTY MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURE**

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#### 4.7.1 **Background**

Hon. Yaw Frimpong Addo is a Ghanaian who was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1962. He had his Basic Education at the Bibiani Catholic Boys School from 1971 to 1975. Between 1980 and 1982, he gained admission to St John's School in Sekondi, Western Region and obtained his Ordinary and Advanced Level Certificates in 1980 and 1982 respectively.



Between 1980 and 1990, Hon. Addo obtained Certificates in Diploma in Education and BA (Hons.) in Social Science at the University of Cape Coast. He later pursued a Master's Programme in Conflict, Peace and Security at the Kofi Annan International and Peace Technology Centre (KAIPTC), Accra and was awarded Executive Masters Certificate in 2016. The Nominee has also obtained Certificates in Managing Workplace Policy/Programme from the Centre for African Family Studies (CAFS), Nairobi, Kenya – 2003, Master Trainers Programme on John Hopkins University University's 'Journey of Hope', Behaviour Change Communication Training on Health and Safety, among others.

Prior to becoming a Member of Parliament, the Nominee had served as a National Service Person at the Western Regional Coordinating Council and has over 20 years of experience in Development Consulting specializing in Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of Projects including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) and Road, Agriculture and Sanitation projects funded by both International and Local Organisations. He was a Manager for Corporate Social Responsibility Department at the Private Enterprise Foundation (PEF) and Programme Officer for National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)/USAID. He also has a vast knowledge in Development, Monitoring and Evaluation of Workplace Health and Safety Policies including HIV/AIDS/TB and Malaria. The Nominee is a medium-scale farmer (cocoa and oil palm) in his home town in the Constituency.

The Nominee is married with four children.

#### **4.7.2 Nominee's Responses to Questions**

The nominee responded to questions relating to areas under the following headings:

##### **Strategies to add value to Agricultural products**

On whether the Ministry has strategies in place for value addition to agricultural products, the nominee indicated that value addition had been a perennial challenge for all successive governments. He indicated that the Government's planting for food and jobs programme has some value addition component and linkages to industrialisation. For instance, the 1D1F programme is a conscious effort by the government to add value to the products. He emphasized the need to add value to about 50% of the country's cocoa instead of exporting everything out of the country. He assured the Committee that when he is given the nod, he will support the Minister to initiate strategies to improve on value addition.

As to how people can have access to the Cocoa bean on the market, he stated that although there are specific contractual obligations requiring the Government to export the beans, the matter was of concern to the sector Minister. He pledged to support his Minister to ensure cocoa beans are available on the market for people to purchase.

#### **Agricultural Roads and Post-harvest losses**

The nominee agreed with the Committee on the lack of collaboration among the Ministries of Agriculture, Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development and Roads and Highways, particularly the Department of Feeder Roads for construction and rehabilitation of roads in farming communities. He opined that, to prevent post-harvest losses, the road network in farming communities must be constructed. He applauded initiatives such as cocoa road projects intended to resolve the perennial challenges of poor state of roads in farming communities. He pledged to collaborate with the Minister to ensure that the cocoa roads concept is expanded to cover other farming communities where shea, tomatoes and other crops are produced.

### **Agribusiness for Graduates**

In explaining how to explore potentials in agriculture to address the unemployment situation in the country, the nominee stated that it was time the youth, especially graduates are encouraged and supported to consider farming as a profession. He pledged to encourage young graduates to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the programmes and modules under the planting for food and jobs and the 1D1F initiatives.

### **Guaranteed Prices for Cashew**

In responding to a question on how guaranteed prices could be offered for cashew farmers, the nominee explained that the object for the establishment of the Tree Crops Authority is to ensure adequate production of tree crops including cashew and price stability. He observed that the absence of a Board for the Authority is affecting the smooth take off of its operations and pledged to assist the Minister facilitate the composition of the Board by the President of the Republic when his nomination is approved. As to why the Tree Crop Development Authority has not established offices of the Authority in the districts as provided for in the Act, the nominee explained that the Authority is at its teething stage, and would in due course commence the establishment of offices in other districts.

### **Concept of Greenhouse farming**

As to what the nominee would do to expand greenhouse farming, he stated that the greenhouse technology for agriculture, particularly for vegetable cultivation, is a laudable idea and encouraging. He praised the previous NDC government for initiating the programme and promised to support the Ministry in expanding the technology to cover the entire country. According to him, the technology, when expanded, would ensure that vegetables are produced all year round, which would lead to price stability of vegetables on the market.

### **Gaps in Fertiliser distribution**

The nominee agreed that there were challenges with the distribution of fertilisers but the situation is currently under control. The major gap he identified was the smuggling of the product to neighbouring countries for sale. He urged the security agencies to be more vigilant to ensure that the gains made in curtailing the phenomenon are not eroded.

### **Construction of Small Irrigation Dams**

In commenting on the state of small dams dotted across the country, the nominee assured the Committee that, on approval of his nomination, he would assist in taking an inventory of all the irrigation dams in the country and work with the Irrigation Development Authority to renovate all broken down dams in the country.

#### **4.7.3 Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves by consensus the nomination of Hon. Yaw Frimpong Addo for appointment as Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture.

### **4.8 HON. KWAKU ASANTE - BOATENG - DEPUTY MINISTER- DESIGNATE FOR RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT**

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#### **4.8.1 Background**

Hon. Kwaku Asante- Boateng was born on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 1961 in Bompata in Asante Akim, in the Ashanti Region. Hon. Asante-Boateng started his education at L.A. Primary School, Onwe - Ejisu in the Ashanti Region from September 1966 to June 1968 and finally completed his Basic Education in Bompata Presbyterian Middle School in June 1975. He pursued his Secondary Education at

Bompata Secondary School where he obtained G.C.E. O' Level Certificate in June 1981 and continued at Konongo Odumasi, also in Asante Akim, for the G.C.E A' Level Certificate in 1983. However, the Nominee had to re-write the G.C.E Advance Level again in 1984 at the St. Thomas Aquinas School in Accra. The Nominee entered the then University of Science and Technology in Kumasi (KNUST) where he was awarded a BSc (Hons.) in Land Economy in October 1989. He subsequently, obtained a Professional Association Membership (Diploma Certificate) in Ghana Institute of Surveyors in January 1993; Licensed Surveyor (AGhIS-VES Division). He furthered his academic pursuit in the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and obtained Certificate in Project Planning and Management in January 1993. In 2002, the nominee was awarded MBA Certificate in Finance at the University of Ghana and finally, in 2007, he completed his legal education at the Ghana School of Law (Barrister-At-Law).

Before he become a Member of Parliament for Asante Akim South Constituency in the Ashanti Region, in the 7<sup>th</sup> Parliament, the nominee has had over 31 years of working experience in the provision of Real Estates Consultancy Services and 14 years in Corporate Legal Practice. The Nominees was the Chief Executive Officer - Property Solutions Models, Executive Director - William Ofori and Co. and Managing Director - Property Solutions Consult, Accra, (Valuers, Property Managers, Facilities/Estates Managers and Real Estates Development Consultants), Projects/Estates Manager of Swanzy Real Estates of Unilever Ghana Limited. He has also worked with the Twumasi Ankrah R. and Associates (a Corporate Legal Consultancy Services Firm), a Part-time lecturer at the Southern Ghana Bible School of Assemblies of God, Saltpond in the Central Region of Ghana, and as also has a vast knowledge in Development, Monitoring and Evaluation of Workplace Health and Safety Policies including HIV/AIDS/TB and Malaria.

The nominee has held a number of leadership positions as the Vice-Chairman of the Select Committee on Works and Housing, Constituency Chairman of New Patriotic Party (NPP), Asante Akim South, Deacon and Church Board Member (in-charge of Missions and Pastors' Welfare), etc. The nominee is also a member of the Ghana Bar Association and Ghana Institute of Surveyor. He has participated in a number of conferences and capacity building training programmes including, International FAECAL SLUDGE Management Conference (Sustainable Sanitation), South Africa; World Water Week (Conference), Stockholm, Sweden, Legislative Drafting, Cavendish – United Kingdom, International Conference on Techniques in Real Estates Development, Chicago – USA and many more.

The nominee is married with four children.

#### **4.8.2 Nominee's Responses to Questions**

The nominee responded to questions relating to areas under the following headings:

##### **Payment of Compensation**

Responding to the question on the payment of compensation to landowners who were affected in relation to the construction of the rail line from Tema and Akosombo, the nominee indicated that payment of compensation to project affected persons is key in construction projects. He assured the Committee that when given the nod, he would assist his Minister to ensure that the appropriate compensation is paid to all project affected persons.

##### **Status of Works on Bompata Road**

When asked about the status of Bompata Town Road Project, the Hon. nominee admitted that works on Bompata roads are not progressing

as expected due to delays in payment. He indicated that he has been able to lobby for the construction of the Bompata town roads but delay in paying the contractor has stalled the project and this situation is affecting the good people of Bompata and the constituency at large. According to the nominee, he is working closely to ensure that the contractor gets back to the site as early as possible.

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### **Funding Rail Infrastructure**

Regarding the use of the annual budget funding amount in funding rail infrastructure in the country, the nominee shared the view that there is the need to have a national conversation on the utilization of the Annual Budget Funding Amount. This according to him, would enable the country to direct its attention to some specific needs. He stated that railway development is very key in the developmental process and when handled properly, it would lower fuel expenses, decrease total transportation cost, reduce the pressure on the country's road network which would increase the lifespan of road constructed.

### **Expansion of Railway Lines**

Speaking on the expansion of railway lines in Ghana, the nominee informed the Committee that railway services is seen as a social responsibility of government in other parts of the world to support the working population from one state to another. He indicated that the railway master plan in Ghana has attempted to link all the regional capitals, mining communities and other cities that are important to one another, but due to lack of funds the country is finding it very difficult to realize this master plan. He assured the Committee that, when given the nod by this august House, he would assist the Minister to scout for able and willing investors to invest in the rail sector to enable the realization of the master plan.

### **Construction of Western Railway Line**

The nominee disagreed with the assertion that the 500 million euros secured by Government to construct the Western Railway Line be diverted for the construction of road networks in the country. Hon Asante-Boateng indicated that as much as he attaches importance to the construction of road infrastructure network in the country, it is equally important for the resources earmarked for the construction of Western Railway line its be utilized for its intended purpose. He informed the Committee that the construction of Western Railway line when completed would alleviate the burden of the people, ensure timely arrival of agriculture produce from the hinter lands to the major cities at cheaper prices thereby creating employment opportunities and boosting the economic activities of the people.

### **Encroachers on Railway Lands**

On how the Hon. nominee would deal with the issue of trespassers and encroachers on the railway lands in the country, he informed the Committee that the development of railway system is very important to the socio-economic development of a country and to achieve this be achieved, there is the need to depoliticize the issue of encroachers and consider the rail lines as national assets intended to benefit all Ghanaians. He believes that the support of all Ghanaians devoid of any political affiliation or party consideration is important.

He stated that, when given the nod, he would assist the Minister to deal with encroachers who obstruct the work of the sector and demolish unauthorized structures in accordance with the laws of the land to pave way for the construction of rail lines. He is of the view that these measures when instituted would serve as a deterrent to encroachers.

### **Collapse of Railway Sector**

Mr. Asante-Boateng admitted that he has not conducted extensive research on the collapse of railway network in the country but believes



that, the factors that contributed to the collapse of Ghana Airways were the same for the Rail sector. According to the nominee, workers were enjoying protocol facilities and free tickets across the country. He indicated that as a nation there is the need to make a conscious effort and change our attitudes and focus on the country's developmental agenda. He informed the Committee that the surest way to revamp and protect the Rail sector is to entrust it to an independent or a private operator to manage it as practiced in other countries.

#### **Role as a Deputy Minister**

Touching on his role as the Deputy Minister for Railway Development, the nominee informed the Committee that he would be assisting the Minister to supervise the two agencies under the Ministry since they play a very critical role in the development of the industry. He further indicated that as a Development Consultant and Land Management Administrator he would utilize his experience and expertise to ensure that the ministry achieves its stated objectives.

#### **Adoption of Metro Rail Lines**

Responding to a question on the possible adoption of Metro Rail Lines as a central pillar for public transport, Hon. Asante-Boateng acknowledged the role Rail Transport plays towards the development of a nation. He indicated that considering the congestion and the current level of indiscipline on the country's as well as challenges confronted with daily movement and activities, he is of the view that the nation should begin to consider adopting Metro Rail Line as our primary transport option to ease mobility.

The nominee informed the Committee that feasibility studies on Metro Rail Line has been done by the Ministry and the only challenge now is inadequate funding. He informed the Committee that when given the

nod he would assist the Minister attract strategic investors who will be able and willing to partner the Ministry to achieve this initiative.

#### 4.8.3 **Recommendation**

The Committee, by Consensus, recommends to the House to approve the nomination of Hon. Kwaku Asante Boateng for appointment as Deputy Minister for Railway Development.

### **4.9 HON. AMA POMAA BOATENG - DEPUTY MINISTER- DESIGNATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITALIZATION**

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#### 4.9.1 **Background**

Hon. Ama Pomaa Boateng was born on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1975 in Accra in the Greater Accra Region but hails from Juaben in the Ashanti Region. She attended St. Paul's Methodist School in Tema for her Primary Education from 1980 to 1983 and continued at the Snaps Preparatory School for the Common Entrance Certificate from 1989 to 1991 respectively. She gained admission to the Holy Child School in Cape Coast where she obtained both her G.C.E Ordinary and Advanced Levels Certificate in 1989 and 1997

Later in 2017, Hon. Ama Pomaa Boateng acquired certification as a Mediator Essentials from the American Association of Arbitration, United States of America (USA) and further studied Corporate Governance in May, 2018 at the Northwestern Kellogg Business School, USA. The Nominee enrolled in the Harvard Kennedy School in the USA and was in 2020, awarded a Certificate in Private Public Partnership for Infrastructure. Again, the Nominee studied Business Foundation at the University of Pennsylvania-Wharton in 2021, and participated in the IS/IT Governance programme at the University of Minnesota in January 2021, USA. Hon. Pomaa Boateng is currently

studying MSc. Digital Business at the University of Salford, USA since 2020.

The Nominee, from 2003 to 2007 was the Director of 2Ti Solutions and has also worked with Alcatel Telecom as a Systems/Business Manager from 1999 to 2001. From 2008 to 2009 at SPEED Ghana where she worked as Manager Enterprise Information Service and was the Managing Director for Ghanaian High-Tech Women from 2009 to 2012.

The Nominee has been Parliament, since 2013 and has been a Member of the Parliament of Ghana ICT Steering Committee since 2017. She was also a Member of the ECOWAS Parliament where she served as the Vice -Chair for Gender Committee, Gender Equality and Investment, Agriculture, Food and Security, 2017 to April, 2021 and in the Inter- Parliamentary Union (IPU). She is a Member of Middle East Questions Council and also served on the Board of the National Petroleum Authority (NPA) as the Chairperson, Risk as well as Complaints and Settlement Sub-Committee of the Board. She has attended conferences and capacity building training programmes both locally and Internationally including Election Observation Training by Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), in September, 2020 UK; Women, Peace and Security at the Kofi Annan International Training Centre/LSE in October, 2017 as well as Oil and Gas - Offshore Technology Conference, USA in May, 2018 and 2019 respectively.

The Nominees has also received some awards including the Overall Best Winner of the 2021 World Bank GIM Business Competition (Waste Management), 2009 FORTUNE/US State Department Global Women's Mentoring Partnership, 2005 Community Technology Centre Network and 2004 Ghana New Ventures Competition.

#### 4.9.2 **Nominee's Responses to Questions**

The nominee responded to questions relating to:

### **Mainstreaming E-applications**

The nominee admitted to the Committee's suggestion that the country is lagging behind in the adoption of e-applications in all facets of the country's economy despite the tremendous progress it has made in terms of ICT legislations and infrastructure development. She indicated that successive governments have done their best to promote the use of e-applications including establishment of ICT Centres across the country. She believed that the Accra Digital Centre was one of the excellent initiative or models aimed at facilitating the use of e-applications in the capital city. If approved by the House, she intends to support her Minister to replicate the Accra Digital Centre concept to other parts of the country, especially the rural areas.

### **Mobile Sim Card Re-registration**

The nominee supports Government's policy to re-register all mobile SIM cards used in Ghana. She believes it will assist in the formalisation of the country's economy. She added that the re-registration exercise is to aid the State in fight mobile money fraud which has become prevalent in recent times. She explained that there were some inadequacies with the current mobile SIM cards register which makes it difficult to trace and apprehend criminals who perpetrate fraud or use their SIM cards to engage in criminal activities. She however conceded that currently 17 million citizens have obtained the Ghana Card, representing about 55% of the country's total population which may impact the re-registration process. She indicated that the Government was fully aware of the situation and had begun taking steps to enable Ghanaians without the Ghana Card acquire the card in order to register their SIM cards.

She assured the Committee of supporting her Minister to ensure that more mobile phone users register their sim without any hitches.

### **Internet Broadband Services in Parliament**

When asked what she would do to assist in the improvement of internet broadband services within the parliamentary precinct, the nominee admitted that the state of the internet connectivity in Parliament is deficient. She indicated that the unreliability coupled with low WIFI coverage within the precincts of Parliament often affect Members' access to information and other services required for the discharge of their constitutional mandate. She pledged to work with the Minister to improve on the situation when her nomination receives approval by the House.

### **Impersonation of Officials of State on Facebook**

When asked about how she would support her Minister to tackle the recent high spate of impersonation of State functionaries including Members of Parliament on Facebook and consequent perpetration of fraud on unsuspecting Ghanaians, the nominee noted that the issue was of a grave concern to many IT professionals and State functionaries including herself. She hinted that some work was already under way at the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisations involving the development of IT protocols to identify fake Facebook accounts and to trace the perpetrators. She pledged to support the Ministry to undertake more of such initiatives including public education to address the phenomenon.

#### **4.9.3 Recommendation**

The Committee, *by Consensus*, recommends to the House to approve the nomination of Hon. Ama Poma Boateng for appointment as Deputy Minister for Communications and Digitalization.

**4.10 HON. KWAKU AMPRATWUM-SARPONG - DEPUTY MINISTER-  
DESIGNATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS & REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

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**Background**

Hon. Kwaku Ampratwum-Sarpong is a Ghanaian born on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 1958 in Mampong-Ashanti in the Ashanti Region. Hon. Ampratwum- Sarpong started Elementary Education at the Presby Primary School from September, 1962 to 1968 and continued to obtain his Middle School Leaving Certificate (MSLC) at the Presby Middle Boys Boarding School in September, 1972 all in Mampong Ashanti in the Ashanti Region of Ghana.

The Nominee, from 1972 to 1977, pursued his Secondary Education at Amaniampong Secondary School where he obtained the G.C.E Ordinary Level Certificate. He proceeded to the Accra Academy School where he obtained his G.C.E Advanced Level Certificate in 1980.

Between October, 1980 and August, 1984, the Nominee gained admission to the University of Ghana where he was awarded a BA (Hons.) in Geography and Political Science. The Nominee subsequently obtained a Post-Graduate Certificate in Housing Studies in 1993 and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Estates Management/Chartered Institute of Housing Membership in 1995 at the University of Westminster, London, United Kingdom (UK). Hon. Ampratwum-Sarpong also obtained his Advanced Executive Certificate in Procurement and Contract Management at the Graduate School of Governance and Leadership in January, 2012.

On the professional front, the Nominee is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing (UK), Chartered Management Institute (UK) and Chartered Institute of Directors (UK). Hon. Kwaku Ampratwum-Sarpong has worked with John Grant Estates, Edmonton-London, as Property Negotiator from May, 1989 to August, 1990, Senior Administrative Assistant - London Borough of Lambeth, Brixton, Directorate of Housing and Property. He worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ghana High Commission in New Delhi, India, as the Deputy High Commissioner from April, 2006 to February, 2009.

The Nominee has held a number of leadership positions such as the Assistant/Secretary to the Danquah-Busia-Dombo Group in Exile, UK (United Progress Party International -UPPI), Secretary and Chairman - New Patriotic Party (NPP), UK/Ireland Branch, 1992-2001 and 2001 - 2004 respectively.

He has also participated in a number of conferences and capacity building training programmes, including the Parliamentary Oversight Monitoring and Evaluation Training (March, 2017), GIMPA; Strategic Economic Diplomacy Training (May, 2018), International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICEPS); World Water Week (Conference); 72<sup>nd</sup> (2017), 73<sup>rd</sup> (2018) and 74<sup>th</sup> (2019) Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly (New York)

#### **Nominee's Responses to Questions**

The nominee responded to questions relating to areas under the following headings:

#### **The Status of Ghanaian properties abroad and the Rental of Office Accommodation for the Missions**

Given the nominee's vast experience in properties and estates and how he will assist the Minister to change the paradigm, the nominee stated that the paradigm has already been changed. He stated that

the Ministry had already started acquiring, renovating, and purchasing properties for the missions abroad. According to him, the properties in London had been refurbished. He indicated that many of the properties of the missions are undergoing renovation. With the support of the Fifty million United States Dollars SG-SSG facility contracted by the Government of Ghana, new properties have been purchased as residential and office accommodation for the Missions. He informed the Committee that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in the process of securing another facility to continue the acquisition and renovation of the rest of the mission's properties located at various places.

#### **COVID-19 and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

Considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economies of states and whether the nominee foresees a situation where countries, including Ghana, may not achieve the SDGs targets, the Deputy Minister-Designate stated that regardless of the COVID-19 menace, countries including Ghana should attain the SDG targets. As the pandemic appears to be abating now and economies are on the course of revival, the nominee believes that with the right policies and interventions, countries could achieve their targets despite the disruption caused by the pandemic.

#### **Acquisition of Passports in Ghana and Abroad**

As to what plans he has to assist the Minister in ensuring the easy and timely acquisition of passports, the nominee informed the Committee that the Ministry has, in the last four years, streamlined the processes for the acquisition of passports. The Ministry has commissioned Passport Application Centres (PAC) in all the regions except the Upper East Region. With the establishment of PACs, a person requiring passport service need not travel to Accra but rather



**4.11 HON. MOSES ANIM - DEPUTY MINISTER - DESIGNATE  
FOR FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT**

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Hon. Moses Anim was born on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1965 at Adukrom and comes from Adukrom in the Eastern Region of Ghana. He had his basic education from 1970 - 1976 at Ohawu Roman Catholic Primary and Middle School at Pokuase No. 1 from 1976 - 1979. He then proceeded to Nkawkaw Secondary School for his GCE Ordinary Level Certificate from 1980 - 1985 and continued to the Agona Swedru Secondary School 1985 - 1987 for his GCE Advanced Level Certificate.

The Nominee entered the University of Ghana from 1989 - 1991 and pursued a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biochemistry and Food Science. He obtained an Executive MBA in Project Management at the University of Ghana - Business School from 2003 to 2005.

Hon. Moses Anim was a Teacher (Post Advanced Level National Service) at Mayera JSS/Middle Level School from 1987 to 1988 and also served as District Administrator at the National Service Secretariat - Winneba (Post Graduate National Service) from 1991 to 1992. He became a Graduate Teacher at Amasaman Secondary/Technical School from 1992 to 1993. He then joined Astek Fruit Processing Ltd in 2003 and worked for three years (i.e. from 2003 -2006) as Assistant Production Manager, Production Manager, and Quality Assurance Manager. From 2006 - 2012 he was the Project Manager at Wilhelm Construction Ltd. He became a Member of Parliament for Trobu Constituency from January 2013 to date.

The Nominee was the Leader of the Parliamentary Adhoc Committee on Human Trafficking and Second Deputy Majority Whip from January 2017 - January 2021. He has also served on various Committees of Parliament including Government Assurance

Committee, Education Committee, Energy Committee, Selection Committee and Business Committee.

The Nominee has attended several local and international conferences and is married with three children.

### **Nominee's Responses to Questions**

The nominee responded to questions relating to areas under the following headings:

#### **Challenges of Premix Distribution**

In responding to a question on how he intend to assist the Sector Minister to effectively address the perennial challenges in distribution of premix fuel, the Nominee touted some modest gains with the introduction of certain initiatives by the Ministry such as installation of Vessel Tracking and Monitoring Systems, and Canoe identification and Registration. He however admitted that there are still remnants of the challenges such as an allegation of partisan considerations and hiking of the prices of the premix fuel which calls for transparent strategies. The nominee assured the Committee of his unwavering support to the minister in finding a lasting solution to the problem.

#### **Addressing challenges with Transshipment**

The Committee sought the view of the nominee on the high incidence of transshipment and exploitation of Ghana's marine fishing resources by foreigners. In responding to the concerns of the Committee, the nominee recommended for intensification of monitoring and surveillance systems such as vessel tracking systems and regular patrolling of high seas, voluntary compliance, enforcement of the existing fishing laws, and effective implementation of the Co-Management Policy which placed the obligation of the management of

the fishing resources in the hands of all stakeholders. He counted on his ability to speak the four main languages of coastal communities as a great asset for effective implementation of the co-management policy, and in particular, educating the fisher folks for voluntary compliance.

### **The nominee seemingly vast political experience and intellectual capacity over the Sector Minister**

The nominee was questioned on his preparedness to cooperate effectively with the Sector Minister given his vast political experience and intellectual capacity as evident in his deep understanding and knowledge of the sector, compare to the substantive Minister. In reacting to this, the nominee informed the Committee of his full understanding of the role of Deputy Ministers prescribed by the Constitution. Besides, he is a team player and pledged to work to the best of his ability in the interest of Ghana.

The Committee encouraged the nominee to utilize his background in Science in the discharged of his responsibilities at the Ministry.

### **Challenges in investing in Aquaculture**

The attention of the nominee was drawn to the unfriendly business climate for investors in aquaculture, such as delays in registration and acquisition of necessary permits, and subsequently sought his view on how he intend to assist to make the aquaculture sub-sector more attractive to investors. In responding to the question, the nominee underscored the importance of aquaculture development to the achievement of the overall goal of the Ministry and was hopeful that the one-stop-shop provision in the new Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992) would help solve the challenges of delays in acquiring the necessary permits. He also recommended for the establishment of a special desk at the Ministry to assist investors in this regard.

He enumerated other challenges such as low production of fingerlings due to limited number of hatcheries, and high cost of fish meal and recommended for an increase in the application of science to identify other sources of feed which are in less competition with animals and human beings.

**Accusations of unpalatable Statement against Former President John Mahama and National Democratic Congress (NDC)**

An alleged political statement describing Former President John Mahama and NDC as “aimless and visionless” was purported to have been made by the Nominee on Accra-based Radio Kingdom FM. Although, the nominee could not remember ever making such political statement, but he proceeded to render an unqualified apology to the Former President and the NDC if he has ever made such statement.

**Distribution of Outboard Motors**

The Committee sought from the nominee what he would do to assist the Minister to solve the challenges associated with distribution of outboard motors such as partisan considerations and selling at exorbitant prices. The Nominee assured the Committee of his maximum support to the Minister to improve on transparency in the distribution of the outboard motors. He was hopeful that successful implementation of the Co- Management Policy and Registration of Canoes will to a larger extent, address the challenges with the distribution of the outboard motors.

**Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing**

The attention of the nominee was drawn to the recent yellow card warning issued by the European Union threatening to identify Ghana as a non-cooperating country in the fight against. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing. The report identified shortcomings in Ghana’s fishing operations including illegal transshipments at sea of

large quantities of undersized juvenile pelagic species between industrial trawl vessels and canoes in the Ghanaian territorial waters, deficiencies in the monitoring, control and surveillance of the fleet and a legal framework that is not aligned with the relevant international obligations Ghana has signed up to. The report also indicated that the sanctions imposed by Ghana to vessels engaging in or supporting IUU fishing activities are not effective and not deterrent enough.

In responding to the report, the nominee acknowledged the contribution of the fishing sector to the development of the country and assured the Committee of his unrelenting support in assisting the Minister to achieve zero tolerance for IUU in Ghana. He enumerated a number of initiative which is currently ongoing such as plans to amend the existing legal framework to respond to the new obligations under IUU, securing of financial clearance to beef up the human resource base of the Ministry, approval by Cabinet for vessels for patrolling the high seas and digitisation of the marine fishing operations.

### **Addressing Child Trafficking in Fishing Sector**

The view of the Nominee was sought on the rating of Ghana's fishing sector as high in child trafficking by the western community. In answering the question, the Nominee called for a distinction between acceptable cultural norms where children assist their parents or guardians on errands at their free times and force labour where the child is denied of his or her basic right to education or force to engage in activities which are injurious to their bodies. He recommended for more advocacy on culturally accepted support and activities which affects the right and health of the child.

## **Development of Landing Beaches**

The Nominee was informed about uncompleted landing beach development projects initiated by the Former President, Prof. John Evans Atta Mills under the \$3 billion China Development Bank (CDB) Facility including James Town and Chorkor landing beaches. The Nominee explained that the development of the landing beaches is a critical component, and in fact, a precondition to effective implementation of the ongoing digitisation flagship programmes of the government under the Ministry. He pledged to assist the Minister to implement all programmes directed at improving the conditions of the landing beaches.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee, by Consensus, recommends to the House to approve the nomination of Hon. Moses Anim for appointment as Deputy Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development.

## **4.12 HON. NANA DOKUA ASIAMAH-ADJEI - DEPUTY MINISTER- DESIGNATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

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### **4.12.1 Background**

Hon. Nana Ama Dokua Asiamah-Adjei was born on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1982 at Accra and hails from Amonokrom in the Eastern Region. She had primary from 1998 to 1995 and Junior Secondary Education from 1995 to 1997 at Alsyd Academy Primary School, Accra and thereafter proceeded to St. Roses Senior Secondary from 1998 to 2000 where she obtained the Senior Secondary School Examination Certificate. She attended the University of Ghana, Legon from 2002 to 2006 and was awarded Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and Sociology. Hon. Nana Ama Dokua Asiamah-Adjei enrolled at the University

College of London in 2014 and pursued an LLB Programme which she is yet to complete.

She worked at the Accra Metro District of the Ghana Education Service for her National Service from July 2014 to 2016. She was the Founder and Director of Bekleen Limited from July 2007 to September 2016.

From August 2008 to November 2013 she worked with Pongas Limited and its sister company Industrial Park Ghana Limited as Head of Sourcing and Procurement. She became the Managing Director and Director of Pongas Limited and Industrial Park Ghana Limited from November 2013 to September 2016. From March, 2014 to September, 2016 she established Ohemea Food Ventures Limited and worked in the capacity of Director.

Hon. Nana Ama Dokua Asiamah-Adjei entered Parliament on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 as a Member of Parliament for the Akuapim North Constituency and serves on the House and Defence and Interior Committees.0

#### **4.12.2 Nominee's Responses to Questions**

The nominee responded to questions relating to:

##### **African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA)**

The nominee informed the Committee that the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) aims to liberalise and significantly eliminate discriminatory measures with respect to trade in goods and services among the member parties in various sectors of the economy. She indicated that ACFTA is expected to boost intra-African trade by 52% when import duties and non-tariff barriers are removed. ACFTA will cover a GDP of about \$ 2.5 trillion of the market as it provides a single market with a duty free, operator free and quota free platform for manufacturers and exporters to leverage upon.

She stated that with the headquarters in Accra, Ghana would benefit immensely from ACFTA as it provides a big market of about 1.2 billion people within the ACFT area. She added that one of the benefits of ACFTA is that the agreement provides a dispute resolution mechanism and laid down procedures for conflict resolution among members.

### **Cultivation of Cocoa in China**

The nominee informed the Committee that the recent cultivation of cocoa in China should encourage Ghana to produce better cocoa beans. She indicated that with the location of Ghana, just a few degrees north of the equator, Ghana has a geographic advantage to produce a peculiar variety of cocoa beans, which no other country can produce. She advocated that Ghana should strive to add value to the cocoa beans and export more than just the cocoa beans. This she said would position Ghana in a better space regardless of the fact that China has commenced the cultivation of cocoa. She indicated that once China develops the taste for cocoa, Ghana should take advantage of it and export high quality cocoa products to China.

### **One District One factory (1D1F) initiative**

The nominee indicated that the 1D1F initiative is a significant factor in the revolutionary industrial transformation agenda of government. The aim of the initiative is to promote local participation in economic development and boost community-based public private partnerships. She stated that the initiative is a private sector led industrialisation drive to provide and enable communities utilise their local resources in manufacturing products that are in high demand both locally and internationally.

She informed the Committee that 76 1D1F factories are currently operational, 107 are under construction, 13 are pipeline projects and construction has commenced for 36 factories, totaling 232 factories in



all. She reiterated that 1D1F is one of the tools to achieve industrialisation in Ghana and the initiative would create employment to assist in curbing rural-urban migration. She stated that when approved by the House to serve as Deputy Minister, she would support the Minister to create the enabling environment for the initiative to thrive.

### **High Cost of Internet**

The nominee admitted that indeed the high cost of Internet data affects businesses in Ghana since businesses thrive once they are able to manage their cost. She assured the Committee that she would support the Minister to liaise with the Ministry of Communications and other relevant stakeholders to address the high cost of internet data. This she said will aid in the reduction of the cost burden on businesses.

### **Trade Relations with Nigeria**

The nominee stated that the recent impasse between some Ghanaian traders and Nigerian traders in Ghana is very unfortunate. She informed the Committee that the issue is a multifaceted one, which also bothers on diplomacy. She stated that earlier this year, a delegation from Nigeria visited Ghana in an attempt to dialogue with Ghana to arrive at an amicable solution to the issue.

### **Importation of Food in Ghana**

The nominee indicated that currently Ghana imports about 80% of food items especially rice, as rice has become an important staple in the country. She informed the Committee that the growing preference for imported rice in Ghana could be attributed to urbanization. She stated that Ghana has the capacity and potential to produce rice on a large scale hence, the Planting for Food and Jobs initiative which does not only prioritize rice but also set goals for domestic rice production.

The Ministry she stated intends to support local producers with the requisite technology to enable them produce high quality rice which can compete with imported rice and also acceptable to the Ghanaian consumer. The Ministry according to her would also assist some producers obtain medium to long-term loans to expand production to meet the demand. Producers would also be educated and trained to improve upon the quality of their products as well as the packaging of same. These she said would encourage people to patronize locally produced food items especially rice.

### **Revamping of the Textile Industry**

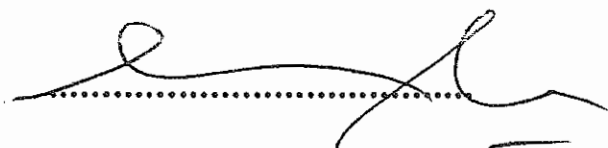
The nominee bemoaned that the Textile industry use to employ close to about 30,000 people but currently, the industry struggle to retain the few people that are still in the industry. She informed the Committee that if approved by the House to serve as Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry, she would assist the Minister explore the possibility of tax breaks to local textile manufacturers. The Ministry would also introduce a single corridor for the importation of textiles in the country. She however called for an attitudinal change and encouraged Ghanaians to purchase textiles produced in Ghana.

#### **4.12.3 Recommendation**

The Committee, by Consensus, recommends to the House to approve the nomination of Hon. Nana Ama Dokua Asiamah-Adjei for appointment as Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry.

- x. **Hon. Kwaku Ampratwum-Sarpong** - **Digitalization  
Deputy Minister-  
Designate for Foreign  
Affairs & Regional  
Integration**
- xi. **Hon. Moses Anim** - **Deputy Minister-  
Designate for Fisheries &  
Aquaculture Development**
- xii. **Hon. Nana Dokua Asiamah-Adjei** - **Deputy Minister-  
Designate for Trade and  
Industry**

Respectfully submitted.



**HON. JOE OSEI-OWUSU  
(FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER,  
& CHAIRMAN, APPOINTMENTS  
COMMITTEE)**



**JOANA ABENA SAKYI ADJEI  
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)  
(APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE)**

*JUNE, 2021*