

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



# **FIRST REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

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ON THE

**NOMINATIONS OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE  
PRESIDENT FOR MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS**

**JANUARY 2013**

ACC NO : 8414 C2

Class No : CR/M/13

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

His Excellency President John Dramani Mahama communicated to Parliament for prior approval of the nomination of the following persons, among others, for appointment as Ministers pursuant to article 78(1) of the 1992 Constitution:

- 1. Mr. Seth Emmanuel Terkper - Minister-Designate for Finance**
- 2. Hon. Hannah Serwaah Tetteh - Minister-Designate for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration**
- 3. Hon. Alhaji Collins Dauda - Minister-Designate for Water Resources, Works and Housing**
- 4. Hon. Amin Amidu Sulemani - Minister-Designate for Roads and Highways**
- 5. Hon. Clement Kofi Humado - Minister-Designate for Food and Agriculture**
- 6. Hon. Inusah A.B. Fuseini - Minister-Designate for Lands and Natural Resources**
- 7. Hon. Mahama Ayariga - Minister-Designate for Information and Media Relations**

In accordance with Order 172(2) of the Standing Orders of the House, the nominations were on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January, 2012 referred to the Appointments Committee for consideration and report.

The names of the persons nominated were subsequently published in the media in accordance with Order 172(3) and memoranda were invited from the public on the nominees.

## **2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The following served as reference documents to the Committee during deliberations and public hearing of the nominees:

1. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana
2. Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana
3. Curricular Vitae of the nominees

### **3.0 PROCEDURE**

On appearing before the Committee, nominees subscribed to the oath of a witness and answered questions relating to their records of office, the positions to which they have been nominated and issues of general national concern.

### **4.0 OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **4.1 MR. SETH EMMANUEL TERKPER - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR FINANCE**

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##### **Background**

Mr. Seth Terkper was born on July 15, 1957 at Somanya in the Eastern Region. He attended the Somanya Presby and Middle Schools from 1963 to 1973. He further attended the Ho Technical Institute (1973-1977) and the Accra Polytechnic (1977-1979) where he pursued various courses including GCE, Diploma in Business Studies and RSA).

Mr. Terkper attended the University of Cape Coast from 1979 to 1984 where he obtained a Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com) Degree and a Diploma in Education (Dip. Ed). He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in the year 1990 after which he attended Harvard University in USA (1991-1992) where he obtained a Masters Degree in Public Administration (MPA) and a certificate in Taxation. He further holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Strayer University in the USA.

He has held a number of positions including Headquarters-based Consultant (HQBC) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) [1999-

2004] and Senior Economist at the same institution from 2004 to 2009.

Mr. Seth Terkper has worked in various capacities at the Ministry of Finance and the Revenue Agencies. He was Deputy Commissioner of the Value Added Tax Service (1998-1999), National VAT Coordinator (1995-1998), Manager of National Revenue Secretariat (1986-1998), Manager and Accountant, Structural Adjustment Programme Secretariat (1988-1991). He served as Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Planning from 2009 to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

### **Decoupling of Finance and Economic Planning**

Asked of his opinion on the decoupling of economic planning from the Ministry of Finance, the nominee stated that the briefing he has had from His Excellency the President is that the Ministry would still be expected to play some planning role.

Mr. Terkper explained further that the Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) is developing a system to integrate the work and output of the NDPC into the work of the Finance Ministry and that this would continue, irrespective of the decoupling.

He assured that there is going to be an intense collaboration between the Ministry of Finance and NDPC to ensure complementarity.

### **Judgment Debt**

As to what he would do differently to address the issue of judgment debt payments which has bedeviled the country in recent times, the nominee stated that the matter of judgment debt is currently before a special commission set up by His Excellency the President.

He was hopeful that the report that would be issued by the Commission would help to inform the Ministry of Finance in future dealings on judgment debts.

The Finance Minister-Designate nonetheless stated that one phenomenon which has led to the litany of judgment debts is the cancellation of contracts which occurred in high numbers in the period prior to 2009.

He promised that monitoring and auditing of contracts would be done to ensure that contracts are not cancelled wrongly to incur judgment debts.

### **Fiscal Discipline**

Mr. Terkper, a chartered accountant, explained to the Committee that accounts are organized on cash or accrual basis.

He lamented that the systems for monitoring contracts of the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) are weak, hence contracts being awarded by MDAs outside the budget.

He informed the Committee that the cash basis of accounting is being moved to accrual basis, so that outstanding liabilities for one year would become encumbrance for the subsequent year(s) in accordance with the Financial Administration Act. Again, an Accounts Payable Module is to be developed to keep track of all government liabilities.

### **Loans**

On the recent shift from concessional borrowing to commercial loans, the nominee elucidated that the concern of any country on contracting loans goes beyond just the concessional nature of loans to debt sustainability. The intention of government, according to him, was therefore to keep borrowing within sustainable limits, by ensuring that national borrowing takes cognizance of national output and Gross domestic Product (GDP). He counseled that the principle of debt sustainability even applies to households and businesses.

Whilst being optimistic that government would prioritize soft borrowing or concessional financing, he was still cautious that as the country grows into a bigger middle income economy, our ability to obtain concessional facilities would be dwindling.

He promised to revisit the matter during the presentation of the 2013 Budget and Economic Policy of Government.

### **Access to capital / financing**

The nominee stated that the responsibility of ensuring access to financing is a function that the ministry shares with the central bank whose Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) works in that regard. He explained the central bank puts a lot of mechanisms in place to monitor the cost of financing, interest rates, inflation etc.

The former IMF official lamented that as government goes into the domestic market to take money through bonds and Treasury Bills, business and individual borrowers get crowded out.

He however gave the assurance that through the Microfinance and Small Loans Center (MASLOC) and other interventions, the government is actively working to help Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to have access to capital.

### **Single Digit inflation**

As to whether the single digit inflation was being felt practically by Ghanaians, the nominee maintained that the significance of reduced inflation is felt practically by Ghanaians in the area of food availability and which according to him is a very critical component of the expenditure of poor households.

### **Release of Agricultural Funds**

The Minister-Designate for Finance promised to work to reduce unbudgeted expenditure. He elucidated that as the arrears of the Single Spine Salary Structure (SSSS) is currently almost cleared, expenses such as agricultural expenditure would be given priority and timeliness.

### **Pension Irregularities**

On the new three tier person scheme and the way forward to ensure no worker is shortchanged, the nominee explained that he is aware

that there are allegations in the media about some irregularities in the management of the second tier, a matter he said the outgoing minister had referred to the Attorney-General's Department for advice and resolution.

In a related development, the nominee informed the Committee that the biometric registration of government employees and pensioners has been very successful in pruning the government payroll of "ghost names".

### **Debt Sustainability**

Asked if the current debt level and borrowing trend could be sustained, Mr. Terkper stated that the current debt level stands at 44% of GDP and that the country would get into unsustainable level if we reach about 55%.

To help ensure debt sustainability therefore, the nominee explained that loan facilities that would be taken for commercial projects would be on-lent to those projects to ensure self-amortization of such loans. He mentioned for instance the loans for railway development, thermal plant development as examples of facilities that could be self-repaying.

### **Status of the CDB Loan**

Members sought to know the status of the US\$3 billion loan contracted from the China Development Bank (CDB). To this, the nominee informed the Committee that first disbursement of the facility has been done for the gas project.

According to the nominee, the lenders have raised a question of possible inconsistency between one of the Subsidiary Agreements and the Master Facility Agreement. The ministry would try to resolve the supposed inconsistency, failing which the matter would be referred back to Parliament for approval.

### **Relationship with workers at the Ministry**

On a perceived relationship between him and staff at the Ministry which is alleged to be non-cordial, the nominee maintained that he has cordial relations with all staff at the Ministry. However, his quest to ensure discipline has gotten a few staff offended. To him, fiscal and staff discipline are critical in managing the tax payer's resources. He nonetheless promised to listen to staff who may be genuinely aggrieved for appropriate resolution of their grievances.

### **Tax Incentives**

According to the nominee, Ghana's tax regime has been variously described as "too liberal" and that the Finance Committee of Parliament had also raised issue with the exemptions that are being granted to various entities. He opined that tax benefits must be "targeted" to benefit only genuine business and persons who do genuine business and honour their tax obligations as required.

### **Salary Arrears**

Some Members of the Committee wanted to know from the nominee what he would do to address the long delays that characterize the payment of salaries to new health and educational professionals who are recruited by the state. Some of these salaries were said to be held in arrears for over two years. The nominee explained that these difficulties sometimes arise due to fact that data on the affected new employees take a long period to be captured, scrutinized, cleaned and accepted onto the government payroll.

### **Fuel Price Subsidy**

On the issue of fuel price subsidies in Ghana, the nominee lamented that this problem has been with the country for a long time. He was however cautious that wholesale transfer of the price of petroleum products on the world market to the local consumer could create a dislocation in the system especially if extraordinary high prices are not sustained.



He advised that subsidies must properly be targeted to benefit the intended segments of the population.

### **Review of Tax Laws**

The Finance Minister-Designate intimated that one of his priorities is to work with Parliament to pass new tax laws to meet the exigencies of the time. He revealed that there are drafts already in place which would be finalized and presented to Parliament for consideration and passage into law.

The nominee informed the Committee that there are tax incentives to employees, such as marriage and child responsibility allowances. He added that Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) tax offices are being created to ensure that SMEs honour their tax obligations efficiently.

### **SSSS Wage Bill**

The nominee stated that having been a public servant for many years, he understood perfectly the need for motivation to boost productivity. Therefore, even though he acknowledged that the SSSS had brought additional wage burden to government, he was not in any way opposed to its implementation.

He proposed to be transparent in tripartite negotiations by opening up on the size, nature and demands on the national resource envelope to participants, so that agreements can be reached in a manner that does not unduly harm national economy.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Mr. Seth Emmanuel Terkper as Minister for Finance.

## **4.2 HON. HANNAH SERWAAH TETTEH - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

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### **Background**

Hon. Hannah Serwaah Tetteh is a Ghanaian who was born in Szeged in Hungary on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1967.

She attended Wesley Girls High School, Cape Coast from 1978 to 1985 where she obtained her Ordinary and Advanced Level Certificates. She obtained a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) Degree from the University of Ghana, Legon in 1989 and a Professional Law Certificate in 1992 from the Ghana School of Law, Accra.

Ms. Tetteh worked at the Ghana Agro Food Company Limited, Tema from 1995 to 2000 where she rose to the position of Deputy General Manager in charge of finance and administration.

Hon. Tetteh served as Member of Parliament for the Awutu Senya Constituency from 7<sup>th</sup> January 2001 to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2005. During that time, she was the Ranking Member of the Parliamentary Committee on Gender and children and also a Member of the Committees on Finance, Defence and Interior, Trade, Industry and Tourism and Subsidiary Legislation.

When she left Parliament in January 2005, she rejoined the Ghana Agro Food Company Limited, Tema as General Manager (Corporate, Legal and Administration) until February 2009 when she was appointed Minister of Trade and Industry.

She is currently a Member of Parliament for the Awutu-Senya West Constituency in the Central Region.

### **Enforcement of GIPC Law**

Hon. Tetteh maintained that her work on Regional Integration would not be affected at all by her previous work at the Ministry of Trade and

Industry (MOTI) where the Ghana Investment Promotion Center (GIPC) law was enforced to protect minor retail trade for indigenes/citizens.

She advised citizens of ECOWAS who want to set up businesses in Ghana to obey the protocols of ECOWAS and laws of Ghana.

The nominee stressed that as a Minister of State, her oath would be to uphold the Constitution and laws of Ghana.

### **Ordeal of Visa Applicants**

On the situation of Ghanaian visa applicants who are made to queue under the vagaries of the weather at some foreign embassies and missions in Ghana, the nominee confirmed that she had seen the disturbing spectacle of people suffering under disturbing conditions in a quest to get visas to undertake legitimate trips abroad. That she would work with those embassies to find holding places for such applicants, since in her opinion, such a move would enhance their countries' image in the eyes of the public.

### **Gay Rights**

The nominee reiterated that Ghana has signed on to the charter of the United Nations Organization and as such would respect its obligations on human and people's rights. She was however firm that the UN is made up of different countries and that whilst the West appears to have accepted homosexuality as part of their societies, Ghana has not come to that acceptance yet and therefore her responsibility first would be to the people of Ghana who she would have the honour to represent.

### **Opening Additional Passport Application Centers**

Hon. Hannah Serwaah Tetteh informed the Committee that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration has a plan to roll out passport application centers to all regional capitals to enable people obtain passports without having to travel unduly long distances.

She explained in particular that the residents of the Upper East and Upper West Regions could currently obtain passports from Tamale or Kumasi and don't necessarily have to travel all the way to Accra for that purpose.

### **The Malian Situation**

The opinion of the nominee was sought regarding the current volatile situation in the West African nation, Mali. Hon. Tetteh informed the Committee that Mali has since 2011 been attacked by some terrorist groups who, at some point, were just hours away from the Capital Bamako before the French troops intervened.

She cautioned that the takeover of Mali by terrorist groups could adversely affect the security of all countries in the sub-region including Ghana.

On the issue of sending Ghanaian troops to support the Mali intervention, she affirmed the need to ensure that it is appropriate, approved internationally and that the troops have the required equipment for such an engagement. She revealed that plans are underway to send a "company" of about 120 Ghanaian military personnel to assist the intervention.

### **Assisting Returnees**

The nominee stated that many Ghanaians abroad have high skills that could be attracted back to the country to assist in the development of the nation. With the availability of adequate funds, these people could be attracted back to work in Ghana.

### **Number of missions**

On the number of Ghana missions abroad and the need to open new ones, the nominee declared that it was important for the country to have missions that can be adequately supported financially. She found no point in opening missions which cannot be supported.

The nominee affirmed that the policy of "positive neutrality" is still relevant for Ghana's foreign policy today as it was years ago.

That the appointment of Ambassadors and Heads of Mission, whether career or otherwise should, in her opinion, be based on the national interest solely.

She advised that in promoting the economic interest of Ghana, foreign officials must clearly understand the objectives, policies and programmes of the country.

### **Ghana's Relations with the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire**

In the opinion of the nominee, there has been a lot of misrepresentation in the media about the relationship between Ghana's current government and the Government of La Cote d'Ivoire.

She commended the efforts of both the late President Mills and current President Mahama who she said had worked actively to assure the Ivorians that Ghana is a mutual partner in ensuring the peace and development of our two countries.

She took the opportunity to advise people who speak on behalf of Ghana at various international fora to get thorough briefs from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration so as to present a consistent common front on matters, including especially the Ivorian situation.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Hon. Hannah Serwaah Tetteh as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.

### **4.3 HON. ALHAJI COLLINS DAUDA - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, WORKS AND HOUSING**

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#### **Background**

Alhaji Collins Dauda was born at Mehame on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 1957. He attended the Mim Secondary School (1973-1978) and Navrongo Secondary School (1979-1981) for his General Certificates of Education (GCE) Ordinary and Advanced Levels respectively.

He worked as a teacher from 1982 to 1992 during which he taught at Mehame L/A Middle School, Kukuom Agriculture Secondary School and Ahafoman Secondary/Technical School at Goaso.

Between 1987 and 1991, he was Assembly Member of the Asutifi District Assembly after which he joined the Consultative Assembly of Ghana from 1991 to 1992.

Hon. Dauda was elected Member of Parliament for the Asutifi South Constituency the 1992 Parliamentary Elections, a seat he held until 6<sup>th</sup> January 2001. Whilst outside Parliament, he was elected Chairman of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) (2002-2004).

He returned to Parliament in January 2005 as Member of Parliament for the Asutifi South Constituency, a position that he has held till present.

He was appointed Minister of Lands and Natural Resources in 2009 but was moved to the Ministry of Transport in 2011 where he served as Minister till 6<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

#### **Water Connection to Homes**

Hon. Dauda informed the Committee that before one puts up a building, one needs to obtain a permit from the relevant authorities. He decried the situation whereby people put up buildings without permits and then turn around to demand water connection to those buildings.

He however stated that government has an objective to ensure that each Ghanaian has access to safe and affordable water and therefore a policy is to be issued to clarify the mode of application for water connection.

### **Water Deficit**

The nominee reiterated the fact that "water is life" and outlined the President's vision for every Ghanaian to have access to safe drinking water.

Statistically, he informed the Committee that only 152 million gallons of water are produced per day nationally against a demand of 237 million gallons per day, thus creating a deficit of 85 million gallons day.

Explaining further, he said the water demand for Accra alone stands at 122 million gallons per day against current production of 89 million gallons per day, a shortfall of about 33 million gallons per day.

He was gratified that significant investments have been made into urban water production over the past few years and suggested that the next stage would be to tackle the transmission system. In his assessment, most water distribution networks were excessively old and hence malfunctional.

The nominee emphasized the country's objective of achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of 85% water coverage by the year 2015.

### **Housing Deficit**

The nominee informed the Committee that the housing deficit in the country currently stands at about 1.7 million.

He outlined government's intention to deal with the deficit progressively over a ten year period whereby about 170,000 housing units would be constructed each year for the next ten years.

He encouraged people to use the local “pozolana” cement for projects, especially public constructions, so as to help reduce the cost of construction by about 10%.

### **Water Supply to Adenta**

Alhaji Dauda informed the Committee that the Kpong Water Supply System is being rehabilitated and expanded to add about 40 million more gallons/day to ensure enhanced water supply to the eastern parts of Accra especially Adenta and Madina. He revealed that transmission pipelines have already been laid to those areas pending the completion of the Kpong expansion project.

### **Affordable Housing Project**

On the status of the Affordable Housing Project commenced by the erstwhile Kufuor Administration, the nominee stated that the housing units under that project have not been completed due to lack of funds. He referred to an assessment done by the Ministry which indicated that an amount of GH¢241 million would be required to complete all the units.

The nominee further informed the Committee that some of the housing units have been released to the Military for completion and usage whilst the State Housing Company is also working to complete about 72 of the units at Borteiman in the shortest possible time. The Tema Development Corporation (TDC) was also said to have applied to take over the housing units located at Kpong for completion. He proposed to ensure the completion of the affordable housing project.

### **Rent Advance Payment**

On the question as to the huge rent advance payments demanded by landlords before giving out accommodation to tenants, the nominee proposed to solicit the input of stakeholders to ensure a rent regime that ensures a “win-win” situation for both tenants and landlords.



Hon. Dauda recognized that the Rent Control law of 1963 which capped rent advance payment to 6 months was "no more practicable" within the current economic circumstances

To help ease the acute housing deficit, he said government would work in a consistent and systematic manner to provide housing units to the people so as to curtail the persistent arbitrariness on the part of landlords in dealing with tenants.

### **Allocation of Bungalows to superior court Judges and A/G's Department Officials**

The nominee promised that, should he get the nod, he would consider the best means of ensuring that superior court judges and officials of the Attorney-General's Department are considered a priority in the allocation of official bungalows.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Hon. Alhaji Collins Dauda as Minister for Water Resources, Works and Housing.

## **4.4 HON. AMIN AMIDU SULEMANI - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR ROADS AND HIGHWAYS**

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### **Background**

Hon. Amin Amidu Sulemani was born on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1957 in Jawiah, in the Upper West Region. He attended Jawiah primary School in the Upper West Region from 1963 to 1969. He later attended Tumu Middle School from 1960 to 1971 before proceeding to the Nandom Secondary School from 1971 to 1979 where he obtained his General Certificate of Education (GCE) Ordinary and Advanced Level certificates.

Hon. Sulemani continued his education at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi where he was awarded a BSc (Hons) Mechanical Engineering from in 1982. He later attended the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Accra from 2001 to 2002 where he was obtained a Master's Degree in Development Management.

Hon. Sulemani taught from November 1982 to March, 1983 at Kanton Secondary School as a National Service Person. He was later appointed the PNDC Deputy Regional Secretary for the Upper West Region from March 1983 to January 1986. He was posted to the Upper East Region from January 1986 to February, 1992 to serve as the PNDC Deputy Regional Secretary. He was later posted back to the Upper West Region as the PNDC Deputy Regional Secretary from March 1992 to March 1993.

Hon. Sulemani was elected Member of Parliament for the Sissala West Constituency from January 1993 to January, 2001.

In January 2002, Hon. Sulemani worked with KAPP Consult Limited, Accra as a development consultant until November 2006 when he joined the University for Development Studies, Wa Campus as a lecturer.

Having served as Ghana's Ambassador to Egypt from September, 2009 to February, 2012, Hon. Sulemani was appointed Upper West Regional Minister in February, 2012, a position held till 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2013.

He is currently a Member of Parliament for Sissala West Constituency.

### **Rehabilitation of Western Region Roads**

As to what he would do to improve the poor road network facing the northern parts of Western Region, the nominee rather articulated the vision of the President which he said was to fix all deplorable roads across the country.

He acknowledged that during the rainy season it was difficult to construct any good road in the northern parts of the western region,

particularly the Sefwi, Wassa and Aowin Suaman areas. He proposed that if his nomination is approved, he would consult the technical personnel at the Ministry to explore ways of undertaking the construction of roads in these areas during the dry season.

### **Maintenance of Feeder Roads**

In the view of the nominee, most feeder roads needed constant maintenance in order to make them motorable all year round. He agreed to a suggestion that the tarring of feeder roads would go a long way to reduce the cost of maintenance and enhance their motorability but was quick to acknowledge that current resource constraints would make it difficult to undertake such exercise.

Hon. Sulemani admitted to not being a technical person but expressed his preparedness to consult widely with technical persons within and outside the Ministry to ensure that enough experience and expertise are brought on board for the construction of all weather roads throughout the country via the use of cheaper technology.

### **Handling of Ghanaian Migrants from Libya**

On the veracity of the allegation that Ghanaian migrants who were fleeing the Libyan conflict through Egypt to Ghana were manhandled at a time he was Ghana Ambassador to Egypt, the nominee stated that on the contrary, he was praised for treating Ghanaians very well. According to him, Ghanaians who arrived at the Egypt boarder were duly processed as transit persons and that the Embassy made all the necessary efforts to ensure that the Ghanaians were quickly processed from the Egypt - Libya boarder, conveyed to the Airport and flown to Ghana.

He commended the staff of the Embassy for their hard work in ensuring that the affected Ghanaians arrived in Ghana safely.

### **Akyem Abuakwa Area Roads**

The nominee disagreed with a suggestion that the NDC government had failed to rehabilitate the Akyem Abuakwa roads because that area

is not the NDC's stronghold. He argued that the NDC is not the only party that has formed government in Ghana "all this while" and therefore cannot be held solely responsible for the non-rehabilitation of roads in that area.

In the framework of the rehabilitation of roads nationwide, he promised to find out road projects that have been previously undertaken in that area, the bottlenecks faced and the way forward.

### **Funding for Road Projects**

The nominee stated that the funding level for road projects was generally challenging. He said the Road Fund was currently encumbered as a result of borrowing from SSNIT.

Though sources of revenue into the Road Fund include DVLA levies, road tolls and other fees, the nominee opined that the Road Levy has been the major source of revenue to the Fund. He found it unfortunate that the levy was fixed at 6 Pesewas per litre of fuel and has since not been reviewed. To him, this situation has made it impossible for the levy to benefit from petroleum price adjustments. He further bemoaned the situation where a number of commercial vehicles were currently using Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and therefore not paying the required Road Levy. These factors were said to be negatively affecting the flow of revenue into the Road Fund.

The nominee recommended private public partnerships (PPP) as one of the ways the Ministry could explore to undertake road construction projects in the country.

### **Abandoned Road Projects**

In the opinion of the nominee, most uncompleted and abandoned road projects in the country were occasioned by lack of adequate funds to complete them and that some of these roads were not properly budgeted for. He related the issue of spontaneous unbudgeted road constructions to indiscipline and not sticking to planned programs.

He called for the strengthening of the supervision, monitoring and evaluation of projects under to ensure that they are planned, budgeted for, properly awarded and duly executed as required. He indicated that currently uncompleted projects would be give priority so that they could be completed for use by the people.

### **Proposal for Discriminatory Award of Contracts**

The nominee disagreed with the suggestion that the Ministry of Roads and Highways should award 30% of all the Ministry's contracts to contractors aligned to the New Patriotic Party.

He was firm that contracts in the country are not shared among individuals or groups but rather are awarded in line with the Public Procurement Act. He further stressed that contracts, as provided by the Procurement Act, are to be won on merit and not on partisan considerations.

Hon. Sulemani assured the Committee that, if he is given the nod, he would adhere to the tenets of the Public Procurement Act in the award of contracts.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves by consensus the nomination of Hon. Amin Amidu Sulemani as Minister for Roads and Highways.

## **4.5 HON. CLEMENT KOFI HUMADO - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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### **Background**

Hon. Clement Kofi Humado was born on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1953. He had his basic education at the Roman Catholic Boys Primary and Middle School, Ho from 1959 to 1966.

Between 1966 and 1973, he attended Bishop Herman College, Kpando for his Ordinary and Advance Level Certificates. He later enrolled at the University of Ghana, Legon where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) in 1976.

He further obtained a post graduate diploma in Agriculture Administration from the University of Ghana and a Masters Degree in Leadership and Governance from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA).

He also holds a Certificate in Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Sector projects, Certificate in Micro-Enterprises Finance and Certificate in Data Management and Analysis.

Hon. Humado has worked with a number of Institutions in several capacities. These include Head of Monitoring and Evaluation of the Volta Region Agricultural Development Project (VORADEP), Ministry of Food and Agriculture from 1982 to 1987; Expatriate Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist of North Western Province Agricultural Development Project, Solwezi, Zambia from 1987 to 1988; National Officer of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), Accra, Ghana, from 1990 to 1991; and Deputy Project Manager/Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator for the IFAD Smallholder Credit Input Supply and Marketing project (SCIMP) from 1990-1991. He was also consultant to IFAD, Rome on projects in the Gambia, Sierra Leone and Ghana during the same period of 1990-1991.

Hon. Humado is currently the Member for Parliament for Anlo Constituency, a position he has held from 7<sup>th</sup> January 2005 to date. He has served on several Committees of Parliament in several capacities including Member of House Committee from 2005 to 2006, Deputy Ranking Member of the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs from 2005- 2006, Deputy Ranking Member of the Committee on Environment, Science & Technology between 2007 and 2008, and Chairman of the Special Committee on Poverty Reduction Strategy from 2009 to February 2011.

Hon. Humado was appointed Minister for Youth and Sports in February 2011, a capacity he held till 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2013.

### **Rice Production**

Questioned on what he would do to improve local rice production, Hon. Humado indicated that he would collaborate with stakeholders to come up with programmes to assist rice farmers in the area of enhanced production and post-harvest management of produce.

He also suggested the boosting of the operations of the National Food Buffer Stock Company to assure farmers of ready market for their produce.

### **Poultry and Livestock Development**

In response to a question on what can be done to promote poultry and livestock production in Ghana, the nominee lamented that all the major inputs in poultry production, from chicks to feed, are imported hence resulting in high cost of production. He advocated the scaling up of the local production of maize, soya beans and other inputs to help reduce the cost of poultry feed. He proposed to collaborate with the Youth in Agriculture programme, if given the nod, to help produce grains to feed the poultry industry.

The livestock sector, he said, needs an introduction of new breeds to improve the quality and resistance to diseases.

## **Modernization of Agriculture**

The nominee was baffled that whenever "agricultural modernization" is mentioned, a lot of people start to think about "mechanization" and the use of machinery. To him, modernization goes beyond the use of machines to include improvement in seed variety, improved application of fertilizers and a holistic improvement of the value chain - from the use of improved seeds, better methods of land preparation, improved planting methods, harvesting and processing of agricultural produce.

Whilst indicating his resolve to ensure the establishment of agriculture mechanization service centers in all districts, the nominee also called for a close collaboration between research institutions and farmers to help improve agricultural practices in Ghana.

## **Fertilizer Subsidies**

According to the nominee, the current fertilizer subsidies were introduced to ensure price equalization for fertilizers across the country. He however expressed the need to open the fertilizer market for importation to allow for enhanced private sector participation without much regulation. This in the view of the nominee will ensure that aside the government subsidized fertilizer scheme, farmers get access to other cheaper sources of fertilizer. He further called for a close collaboration between Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Security Agencies to help curb the menace of smuggling of subsidized fertilizer to neighboring countries.

Hon. Humado was optimistic that Ghana had the requisite potential for the production of fertilizers in commercial quantities and therefore promised to work closely with all stakeholders to the potential of establishing fertilizer plants in the country.

## **Women's Access to Agricultural Credit**

The nominee confirmed his awareness of the fact that gender issues have become very topical not just in the agricultural sector but in all



other sectors of the economy. He proposed to engage the Directorate on Women in Agriculture to review the situation with a view to increasing women's participation in agriculture and access to the requisite financing.

### **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)**

The Committee sought the view of the nominee on the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in agriculture production in Ghana. Mr. Humado indicated that the introduction of the GMOs itself may not be a bad idea but explained that to get the best yield from some GMO crops, one may sometimes require the use of more fertilizers though such crops may have better resistance to pests and diseases. He encouraged large scale commercial farmers to take advantage of the benefits by GMOs. For small scale farmers however, he argued that the change to GMOs should be a gradual process.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves by consensus the nomination of Hon. Clement Kofi Humado as Minister of Food and Agriculture.

## **4.6 HON. INUSAH A.B. FUSEINI - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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### **Background**

Hon. Fuseini was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1962. He attended Choggu Primary School, Tamale from 1967 to 1972. He obtained his GCE Ordinary Level Certificate from Nareligu Secondary School, Gambaga. He later attended Bagabaga Training College where he received his Teacher's Certificate 'A'.

In 1998 he obtained a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Degree from the University of Ghana, Legon and later acquired a Professional Law

Qualification (BL) in 2000 from the Ghana Law School, Accra. He further attended the China – Europe International Business from 2009 to 2012 where he was awarded an Executive Masters in Business Administration.

Hon. Fuseini worked with the Ghana Education Service as a teacher between 1982 and 2000. In 2001 he worked as a teaching Assistant at the University of Ghana, Legon. He has since the year 2000 to date worked as a Senior Associate of the Law Trust Company, Accra.

Hon. Fuseini is founding member for the NDC Youth Forum.

Hon. Fuseini has served as a Member of Parliament for Tamale Central Constituency from 2006 to date. He has been a member of the Judiciary Committee as well as a Member of the Committee on Trade, Industry and Tourism. He was once Chairman for the Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs.

### **Depletion of Timber**

The nominee conceded that timber reserves in the country have been depleted. This has led to the closure of some timber companies in the country. Ghana used to have 8.6 million hectares of forest resources. Today, forest cover amounts to only 1.6 million hectares. This huge decline has impacted negatively on the timber industry.

The nominee said the President aims at addressing this problem and is putting in place a number of measures to address this trend. The Ministry is to see to it that all timber resources are to be harvested in line with the laid down laws of the land. Other wood species such as bamboo would be exploited to augment the supply of hard wood. Government is also in talks with other countries like Cameroun to supply Ghana with timber to support its timber industry.

The nominee informed the Committee that these measures as well as other measures are in line with the President's vision. If given the nod he would work hard to towards achieving them.

## **Release of Government Lands**

The nominee agreed to the suggestion lands acquired by Government and which were not used for the purpose to which they were acquired should be returned to the original owners. He explained that these lands are made up of those lands that compulsorily acquired by the State but compensation due it has not been paid.

He said the president's vision was to bring sanity into land issues in the country. He said if given the nod, he would advise the President for a study to be conducted to list all lands in which the state has vested interest so that a decision can be taken as to the way forward.

He explained that the documentation of the lands would indicate to the State how much land is available for development and which ones could be released to the original owners.

## **Available State Lands for Priority Projects**

The nominee explained to the Committee that there are situations where the State has duly paid compensation for parcels of land which are not in use. These lands belong to the State and not the original land owners since the lands have been paid for. He noted that these lands are been sold too as well leading to a number of abuses.

The Minister Designate said it was important for government to cut out these abuses by creating a transparent mechanism to engage the private sector to acquire some of these lands for the development of houses for workers.

He however informed the Committee that if the purpose for acquiring the lands is still relevant, then no matter how long it would take to undertake that project, the lands would be kept.

He reiterated his earlier pledge that if given the nod, he would cause a detail survey of the lands (public Lands) to ascertain how much land is available for public purposes. The study would reveal how much land is available, how much has been paid for, land use, among others

He also said the President has promised to undertake a number of development projects throughout the country including the construction of airports. The study, if conducted, would show how much land is available for the construction of these projects.

### **"Galamsey" Operators**

The nominee agreed to the suggestion that there is a cause to worry about the activities of "galamsey" operators. He said the activities of these illegal miners are destroying the water bodies, environment and farmlands and could be a catalyst for the resource curse that has been talked of.

He said it is for this reason that the Government has indicated that small scale mining should be the reserve of Ghanaians so that their activities can be monitored. Ghanaians who want to undertake artisanal or small scale mining must be duly registered.

He said to attract Ghanaians into this industry there is the need to educate the public and make the registration less cumbersome.

On the issue of foreigners in mining, the nominee said that foreigners are not allowed by law to engage in small scale mining in the country. The law permits them to do large to medium scale mining. He said the pledge to flush out foreigners engage in small scale mining is to educate them that the large scale and medium scale mining is available to them but not small scale mining.

### **Benefits of mining to communities**

The nominee confirmed that communities where minerals are discovered want to benefit from the minerals found. Where the community does not benefit from the minerals, there tend to be a number of conflicts.

He said to reduce these conflicts; companies are required to undertake programs and projects as part of their social responsibility in the communities. Government is also ensuring that minerals royalties paid are used in line with the guidelines developed by the Ministry of Lands

and Natural Resources. There is also an attempt to review the royalties' formula to make it more beneficial to the communities.

### **Planning policy**

The nominee agreed to a suggestion that most lands are not used for the purpose that they are demarcated. He attributed this lapse to the non-enforcement of the existing regulations.

He said if given the nod, he would work to enforce all existing regulations with respect to land use.

### **Multiple Sale of Lands**

The nominee agreed that many Ghanaians have fallen victim to multiple sale of lands and it was also regrettable the slow pace at which these land cases are disposed of in the courts.

He said the Land Administration Project (LAP) is a process aimed at improving the land administration system in the country. He said LAP 1 has been completed with quite a number of achievements. One such achievement is the time duration for registering lands has greatly reduced. Multiple ownership of land title has also reduced considerably. It is also now difficult to register a parcel of land without the original title.

He said attempts are also being made by the Ministry to produce a comprehensive and holistic land use map for the country. He was confident that LAP 2, which has just been rolled out, would bring on board greater efficiency into the land administration system.

He also informed the Committee that he, like his predecessors, would engage the Judiciary on the need to expedite the adjudication of cases involving lands.

### **Value Addition to Raw Minerals**

The nominee informed the Committee that the Ministry was in the process of adding value to the minerals mined in the country. Diamond is now being polished in the country. The Precious Minerals Marketing

Company is also in the process of adding value to their minerals. There are also plans to set up a gold city such as the type in Dubai so that Ghanaians would see the gold which is mined here.

He said if given the nod he would work hard to realize this goal.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Hon. Inusah A.B. Fuseini as Minister for Lands and Natural Resources.

## **4.7 HON. MAHAMA AYARIGA - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR INFORMATION AND MEDIA RELATIONS**

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### **Background**

Mr. Mahama Ayariga was born on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 1974. He attended a number of schools including Bawku Preparatory School and Cambridge Primary School, Accra for his primary education. He started his secondary school education at Barewa College in Zaria, Nigeria but left to attend Ghana Secondary School, Tamale where he obtained his 'O' and 'A' level certificates.

He later attended the University of Ghana where he was awarded a Bachelors Degree in Law (LLB) in 1997. From 1997 to 1999, he attended the Ghana Law School where he obtained his Professional Certificate for law practice in Ghana, Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Ghana. He also graduated from the Havard School of Law in 2002/2003 with an LLM Degree.

Hon. Ayariga started work as a legal assistant at Bentsi-Enchill, Letsa and Mate law Firm from 1995 to 1996. He was also a teaching Assistant at the Ghana School of Law between 1999 and 2000. He worked with DATACENTA limited as a Research Assistant from 1998 to 1999 and with Ansah-Asare & CO from 1999 to 2000.

Between 1997 and 2004, Mr. Ayariga was the executive director of Legal Resource Center. He is also a fellow of the Advocacy Institute in Washington.

Between 2005 and 2009, he was the Member of Parliament for the Bawku Central Constituency. He was also the Presidential Spokesperson between 2009 and 2010. In 2010, he was appointed the Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry. Between 2011 to January 2013, he was the Deputy Minister of Education.

He is currently the Member of Parliament for the Bawku Central Constituency.

### **High Attrition Rate at the Ministry**

The nominee agreed that the Ministry of Information has a high attrition rate when it comes to Ministers. Within 12 years, the Ministry has had ten Ministers.

He said he was neither perturbed nor intimidated by the high attrition rate at the Ministry of Information. He said he would try as much as possible to understand and achieve what the President expects of him at that Ministry. He said many of these Ministers who were moved from the Ministry served under different Heads of State and were moved to other ministries not as a result of incompetence but that their services were required in other sectors.

### **Media Development Fund**

The nominee disagreed with the suggestion that the Media Development Fund is intended to influence journalists in the country.

He explained that the NDC manifesto promised to set up the Fund in all good faith. He said the Constitution and other laws of the country have enough provisions to protect the independence of the media.

He stated that having a Fund and using it constructively would not undermine media independence. He said the public have been expressed a number of concerns on the quality of journalism practiced

in the country. It is therefore necessary that steps are taken to build the capacity of the journalists in the country. The Fund was mainly set up to achieve that.

He however indicated that during the implementation of the capacity building programs, it is important that there is transparency to increase public confidence in the Fund. He also said the activities that the Fund is used for should target improving the capacity of journalists and media houses.

The nominee disagreed with the suggestion that there would be a turf war between the National Media Council and the Ministry of Information. He explained that Chapter 12 of the 1992 Constitution clearly defines the role of the NMC. The fund is being managed by the Ministry purely for capacity building and not to regulate the media which is the function of the NMC.

### **Draft Broadcasting Bill**

The nominee informed the Committee that he was aware of the Draft Broadcasting Bill. He said the bill was based on the realization that the media landscape is constantly evolving. Currently there are two hundred and twenty four (224) registered FM stations, twenty-two (22) authorized television stations and over 1000 newspapers and journals (some may not be functioning). Some these media houses turn to broadcast information in a way and manner that a section of Ghanaians find disturbing.

He said the Broadcasting Bill intends to provide a framework for National Media Commission to regulate content of media information and to promote high journalistic standards. It also seeks to provide the frame work managing the State Broadcasting Companies. The Bill further seeks to develop a framework for the management of the relationship between the National Media Commission and the National Communications Authority.



He said if given the nod and as directed by the President, he would make sure that the bill is given the needed attention so that it goes to Cabinet for approval in order for it to come to Parliament.

### **Relevance of the Ministry of Information**

The nominee disagreed with the suggestion that instead of the Ministry of Information there should be an arrangement that all the Ministries, Departments and Agencies would have their Public Relations Outfit to propagate their information more effectively.

He explained that the media exist to educate the public, enhance people's capacity and help the public understand development policies, among others. He said there is therefore the need for a central coordinating place for the management of Government public relations and to use the media as a tool for propagating Government information and development. He said it is for this reason that the Ministry of Information exists as a central point to manage efficiently Government information and effectively deploy the media as a tool for development.

He said the key challenge is how to retool the Ministry of Information to carry out this function effectively and efficiently.

### **Resourcing the Information Services Department (ISD) and Ghana Publishing Corporation (GPC)**

The nominee agreed with the suggestion that if the ISD and GPC are properly resourced they would be very important Departments under the Ministry of Information for the dissemination of information. He said there is the need to retool these Departments and provide them with the necessary capacity to function effectively. He said they would assist in the not only the dissemination of information but would also provide Government with the necessary feedback to shape policy.

He assured the Committee that if he is given the nod, he would work hard to improve the capacity of these departments in order for them to function effectively.

### **Ghana News Agency**

The nominee informed the Committee that he has been told that the Ghana News Agency was one of the most credible News Agency in the country. He said if it is well resourced, it can easily become the hub of news in the country.

He said if he is given the nod, he will take on board the advice that there is an immense potential and would hard to realize this goal. Fortunately the President's vision to support the Media with a fund can be used to support the Agency. The Draft Broadcast Bill also proposes the setting up of a Fund to support the Media. A Part of the fund can be applied to support agencies such as the Information Services Department, the Ghana News Agency among others.

### **Media Pluralism**

On the issue of how he would deal with dissenting press houses, the nominee informed the Committee that the 1992 Constitution provided for media pluralism of which some would inevitably be very critical of government. He said there is very little anybody can do about that. However, it is important that at all times the Ministry ensures that Government's side of the story is always out there. It has to be truthful, accurate and enough to serve the country.

### **National Media Commission**

To a question that the National Media Commission is unable to sanction, the nominee informed the Committee that he is a strong believer in press freedom. He said focusing on education and awareness creation is a better option than sanctions when it comes to media practice.

He said even though the NMC does not have the power to sanction, it is not the only platform for redress. He said if anybody feels frustrated, the court is always there for redress.

He said he would continue to be on the side of free media but would help build their capacity to the extent that they would be aware of the boundaries of their profession.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Hon. Mahama Ayariga as Minister for Information and Media Relations.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

The Appointments Committee has carried out its duty diligently in accordance with the 1992 Constitution and the Standing Orders of the House

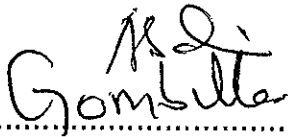
- 1. Mr. Seth Emmanuel Terkper - Minister-Designate for Finance**
- 2. Hon. Hannah Serwaah Tetteh - Minister-Designate for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration**
- 3. Hon. Alhaji Collins Dauda - Minister-Designate for Water Resources, Works and Housing**
- 4. Hon. Amin Amidu Sulemani - Minister-Designate for Roads and Highways**
- 5. Hon. Clement Kofi Humado - Minister-Designate for Food and Agriculture**
- 6. Hon. Inusah A.B. Fuseini - Minister-Designate for Lands and Natural Resources**
- 7. Hon. Mahama Ayariga - Minister-Designate for Information and Media Relations**

The Committee is satisfied that the nominees have fully met the requirements of the Constitution and therefore respectfully recommends their nomination to the House for approval by consensus.

Respectfully submitted.



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**HON. EBO BARTON ODRO**  
**FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRMAN,**  
**APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**



.....  
**ALHAJI IBRAHIM GOMBILLA**  
**DEPUTY CLERK TO PARLIAMENT**

**28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2013**