

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



THIRTY-SIXTH REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

ON

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT
AS DEPUTY MINISTER

JULY 2024

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In a letter of Tuesday 2nd April, 2024, His Excellency the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, **communicated to Parliament, the nomination of Hon Kofi Ahenkorah Marfo for appointment as Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry**, in accordance with Article 79(1) of the Constitution, 1992.
- 1.2 On **17th May, 2024**, the Rt Hon Speaker **referred the nomination to the Appointments Committee for consideration and report**, in accordance with **Standing Order 217**.

2.0 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

- 2.1 The Committee referred to the under-listed documents during the consideration of the nomination:
- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
 - ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament; and
 - iii. The Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the nominee.

3.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE REFERRAL

- 3.1 Pursuant to Order 217(10) of the Standing Orders of Parliament, the name of the nominee was published in the newspapers for the attention of the public. The publication also requested Memoranda from the public in respect of the nominee.

- 3.2 The Committee sought and obtained **confidential reports from the Ghana Police Service and the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB)**, in respect of the nominee. The Committee requested the nominee to submit his **Tax Status Report from the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA)**.
- 3.3 The **Committee held a Public Hearing on 2nd July, 2024 to consider the nomination**. At the hearing, the **nominee subscribed to the "Oath of a Witness before a Committee"** and answered questions posed by honourable Members. Questions asked related to his curriculum vitae, eligibility, competence, issues of national concern and those of the office for which he has been nominated.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Hon Kofi Ahenkorah Marfo was born on 26th April, 1968 in Akim Oda in the Eastern Region of Ghana. He hails from Akim Bieni in the Eastern Region. He started his Basic Education at Bieni L/A Primary School in 1973 and continued at St. Francis Junior Secondary School from 1979 to 1981.
- 4.2 The nominee obtained his Ordinary Level (O'Level) Certificate from Akim Swedru Secondary School in 1986 and a Proficiency Certificate in Custom House Agency from the Ghana Revenue Authority in 1999. He obtained an Executive Certificate and Master's Degree in Alternative Dispute Resolution in 2013 and 2014 respectively, all from the Institute of Paralegal Training and Leadership Studies. He is a Christian and married with two children. He is fluent in English and Twi.

- 4.3 In 1995, Hon Kofi Marfo Ahenkorah was appointed the Deputy Operations Manager of Teamwork Freight Service and served until he became the Deputy Managing Director of Okyere Bekoe Group of Companies in 1998. The nominee worked as the Managing Director for KAM-G Service Limited for 14 years from the year 2000. He later became the Managing Director of Kampha Logistics Limited.
- 4.4 Regarding leadership experience, he served as the Chairman of the Achiase Constituency wing of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the Chairman of the Eastern Regional Constituency Chairmen of the Party, all from 2012 to 2018.
- 4.5 The nominee has participated in many conferences and capacity-building programmes, including the International Civil Aviation Conference held in Montreal, Canada in 2003; the Policy and Governance Forum organised by the State Interest and Governance Authority in 2020; the Sensitisation Tour organised by the Ghana Investment Promotion Center (GIPC) in Accra in 2022; and the International Maritime Authority Conference also held in Accra in 2023.
- 4.6 Currently, Hon Ahenkorah is the Board Chairman of Metro Mass Transit Limited and the Member of Parliament for the Achiase Constituency, positions he has held since 2021. He is also a Member of the Parliamentary Committees on Roads and Transportation and Privileges and Immunities. He is a distinguished Member of the Ghana Institute of Freight Forwarders and the Ghana National Association of Alternate Dispute Resolution Practitioners.
- 4.7 The hobbies of the nominee are reading and touring.

5.0 QUESTIONS ASKED OF THE NOMINEE AND HIS RESPONSES

NOMINEE'S KNOWLEDGE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 5.1 The nominee informed the Committee, he holds an Executive Certificate and Masters in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) obtained from the Institute of Paralegal Training and Leadership Studies in 2014. With his background in ADR, he was requested to explain to the Committee, what he would do to support the substantive Minister for Trade and Industry, when his nomination is approved.
- 5.2 The nominee in his response, stated that the Ministry of Trade and Industry faces a great deal of dispute-related issues, particularly with trade unions and associations such as the Ghana Union of Traders' Association (GUTA). He indicated it was incumbent on the Ministry to resolve such matters and intimated he would assist the substantive Minister for Trade and Industry in that regard by bringing his experience in business and knowledge in ADR to bear.

CURRENT TAX EXEMPTION REGIME

- 5.3 Responding to a question on his understanding of the Country's current tax exemption regime, the nominee stated, that the policy has been an integral part of Ghana's Trade and Industry Sector. He explained that tax exemptions, tax waivers, trade facilitations and industrialisation play a very important role in Ghana's economy because they serve as incentives for investors from both within and outside the country.

5.4 The nominee had a view contrary to those opposed to tax exemptions. According to him, such policies rather boost investments and are more beneficial to the country. He suggested that the government must continue to grant tax exemptions as an investment drive to support the industrialisation agenda, and make Ghana more competitive as similar exemptions are granted in other economies in the West Africa sub-region.

FREE ZONE AND ECONOMIC ZONE

5.5 On whether the Free Zone or Economic Zone concept should be pursued, the nominee responded that both concepts are needed as they all help in promoting the industrialisation agenda. He stated that exports could be used as a bait for economic transformation and added that value addition before exportation is also another important thing that needs to be considered.

5.6 He hinted the importance of the Free Zone concept and how it helps to create an attractive and conducive "one-stop-shop" business environment for the promotion of domestic and foreign investments, through the provision of tax incentives. He also said it allows companies in Ghana to export at least seventy per cent (70%) of what they produce.

SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMEs)

5.7 Touching on what he would do to support the development of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs), the nominee stated, that the business units are very important to the Ministry and added that they exist across both the rural and urban areas across the country.

- 5.8 He said he was seized with information that the substantive Minister for Trade is very passionate about issues related to SMEs, and assured the Committee he would assist his superior to help make more gains. He averred the passion of the Minister for Trade and Industry would be a driving force to help promote the concept of SMEs.

ONE DISTRICT-ONE FACTORY

- 5.9 Responding to a question on whether something different could be done to enhance the One District-One Factory (1D1F) Flagship Policy, the nominee opined the concept is one of the best for the country. He explained 1D1F as part of the industrialisation agenda, will help chalk more successes since it will move the country to a level where exports will exceed imports. The nominee asserted that communication and flow of information about the concept is very important because it appears a good number of Ghanaians still do not understand the Policy. He said the Ministry of Trade and Industry has a role to play in the dissemination of information and added that currently, a hundred and sixty-nine (169) companies have registered under the 1D1F.

PORTS AND HARBOURS

- 5.10 On how he will help the Minister deal with challenges faced at the various ports to make those environments more serene, the nominee said he would identify the issues and make well-informed recommendations for consideration by his superior if he is approved. He admitted that as a human institution, the ports are likely to have challenges and for that matter, it is not something that amazes him.

5.11 The nominee however asserted the country's ports have seen a major transformation, including the paperless procedures and one-stop shop activities and added they are all initiatives of the current Government. He informed the Committee that, the Ministry of Trade and Industry was doing its best to facilitate clearance at the Ports by reducing hours spent, among other considerations. He said both the electronic and manual procedures are employed at the Ports to facilitate trade.

5.12 He however expressed the view that there is a need to do more effective monitoring and evaluation to enable the Ministry identify the gaps in the reforms and ascertain the root causes of all the challenges and proffer pragmatic solutions. The nominee was also of the opinion that effective collaboration of the Ministry of Trade and Industry with sister Ministries like Transportation and Finance is also vital in dealing with port-related issues.

ARTICLE 79(1) AND RELATED ISSUES

5.13 Reference was made to Article 79(1) of the Constitution, 1992, and the nominee was asked to explain what he would do, should the substantive Minister of Trade and Industry disregard his inputs and recommendations over time. *Article 79(1)* states:

"The President may, in consultation with a Minister of State and with the prior approval of Parliament, appoint one or more Deputy Ministers to assist the Minister in the performance of his functions."

5.14 The nominee responded that in all things, he will deal with the substantive Minister for Trade and Industry and not the appointor, His Excellency the President. He disclosed His Excellency the President

has already advised him not to consult anybody including himself, when he has issues with the Minister for Trade and Industry. The nominee intimated he will build a collaborative and productive working relationship with the Minister, to make it easier for him to resolve such issues, should they arise. He expressed confidence in the Minister and commended him for being hard-working, principled and passionate about his job in the Trade and Industry Sector of the Economy.

- 5.15 The nominee assured the Committee he would utilise appropriate internal channels to address any challenge that would arise while working with the Minister and colleague Members of Parliament.

WORK ETHICS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR

- 5.16 The nominee informed the Committee he once chaired the Metro Mass Transit Company Limited Board and also held the position of Managing Director at some private entities – Kampha Logistics Limited and KAM-G Service Limited. Drawing on his experience in both the public and private sectors, he highlighted the distinct work cultures of each of them. This, he said, in response to a question regarding the differences between the two.
- 5.17 With the public sector, he mentioned absenteeism, reporting late to work, lengthy official procedures and poor performance in most cases. He noted that the private sector prioritises individual accountability and fosters a results-oriented environment. The public sector, in contrast, he said, adheres to established bureaucratic procedures to ensure transparency and compliance. The nominee acknowledged the frustrations associated with navigating public

sector processes and suggested a comprehensive reform be introduced and well-implemented to change the situation. He said the reform has to cause a collective shift in work ethics to enhance public sector efficiency and indicated that such a move would require concerted and relentless efforts from all public sector employees to drive economic success.

STRENGTHENING RURAL ECONOMIES

- 5.18 A question regarding strategies for bolstering the rural economy was asked of the nominee and he mentioned the role of the Ghana Enterprise Agency (GEA). He said GEA's mandate under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, includes field monitoring and continuous guidance and support to ensure the sustainable expansion of SMEs. He explained that the Agency was established to offer services that foster the growth of SMEs including capacity building, skills development and the provision of access to low interest rate funding.
- 5.19 The nominee emphasised the collaborative potential of the existing partnership between the GEA and the Mastercard Foundation. The collaboration, he said, could be leveraged by Members of Parliament to encourage businesses within their constituencies to access the valuable services provided by the Agency.
- 5.20 The nominee expressed his commitment to working with the Minister and colleague Members of Parliament to optimise the effectiveness of GEA's business resource centres located throughout the various districts of the country.

INTER-MINISTERIAL COLLABORATION

5.21 Asked how he would help build a collaborative relationship between the Ministry of Trade and Industry and other ministries, the nominee confidently indicated that, he would leverage on his skill set and knowledge in ADR.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION/CONCLUSION

6.1 In the opinion of the Committee, the nominee demonstrated confidence, competence, knowledge and dexterity regarding issues about the Ministry of Trade and Industry for which he has been nominated.

6.2 The Committee therefore **recommends to the House to adopt its Report and by majority decision, approve the nomination of Hon Kofi Ahenkorah Marfo for appointment as Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry.**



MRS. GIFTY JAGGE GOBAH
CLERK,
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE



HON JOSEPH OSEI-OWUSU CLERK,
FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER
AND CHAIRMAN,
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

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