

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



**SECOND REPORT
OF THE
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

ON THE

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

ACC NO: 3416 C2

Class NO: CR/M/13

1.0 INTRODUCTION

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

- 1. Hon. Akwasi Oppong-Fosu - Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development**
- 2. Mrs. Nana Oye Lithur - Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection**
- 3. Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang - Ministry of Education**
- 4. Dr. Joe Oteng-Adjei - Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation**
- 5. Dr. Edward Omane Boamah – Ministry of Communications**

The nominations were referred to the Appointments Committee on the 11th of January, 2013 for consideration and report in accordance with Order 172 of the Standing Orders of the House,

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 HON. AKWASI OPPONG-FOSU - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Background

Hon. Akwasi Oppong Fosu was born on 1st February, 1958. He attended the University of Ghana, Legon where he obtained a BSc (Chemistry with Zoology) in 1982. He also obtained a Post-Graduate Certificate in Public Administration from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) in 1997 and a Master of Science degree in Public Policy and Management in 2002 from the University of London, UK. He attended several international short courses, including a course on "Leadership in Development: Managing Change in a Dynamic World" at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA.

Hon. Oppong Fosu was appointed a District Secretary for the Adansi District in 1982 where he served until 1985 when he was reassigned to the Ahafo Ano District as the District Secretary/District Chief Executive between 1985 and 2000. He was appointed Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development from the year 2000 to 2001.

Between 2001 and 2004, Mr. Oppong Fosu chaired the Management Committee of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Local Government Platform.

Hon. Oppong Fosu served as Head of the Local Government Service from 2009 till his election and assumption of office as a Member of Parliament for the Amenfi East Constituency on the 7th of January, 2013.

Resourcing New Districts

The nominee informed the Committee that he was aware that a programme exists to resource new districts. He disclosed that the Local Government Service had conducted an audit on the administrative requirements of all new districts created after the year 2003 and assured the Committee that resourcing these districts would be among his priorities.

MDGs on Sanitation

Hon. Opong-Fosu commended work done so far towards the realization of the Millennium development Goals (MDGs) on sanitation. He indicated that sanitation problems must be tackled as a priority as was done to HIV/AIDS and this must involve a multi-sectoral approach.

Spatial Planning

On the problem of indiscriminate construction of structures without permit and supervision by the various Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs), the nominee identified human capacity deficit as one of the key challenges. He also noted that frequent shifting of the Town and Country Planning Department from one Ministry to another as a contributory factor. To help deal with the problem, he recommended training on building regulation, inspection and supervision as well as the deployment of technical expertise from central government to assist at the local level.

Election/Appointment of DCEs

The nominee was of the view that, the appointment process has the advantage of allowing some balance to be struck in the leadership of the district, especially where there are different traditional areas in the district.

Hon. Opong-Fosu further disclosed that he was aware of the recommendations of the Constitution Review Commission and the Government White Paper thereon which prescribed that the President nominates five (5) persons who would be subjected to interview at the Public Services Commission and subsequently an open competitive election in the respective districts.

Achievements at the Local Government Service

Regarding his achievement as head of the Local Government Service, the nominee stated among others the establishment of the composite budget, a local government staff audit and the recruitment of 2500 officers to beef up operations of the MMDAs, successful transfer of staff of decentralized agencies to the Local Government Service, increased donor support to the Local Government Service as well as the current ongoing process to recruit substantive Coordinating Directors for all the Districts.

Mr. Opong Fosu added that whilst he was District Secretary at Obuasi, it was through his initiative that the Len Clay Stadium was built. He also said that he served the people of Ahafo Ano District so well that he was installed "Sompahene".

Internally Generated Funds (IGFs)

The nominee was unhappy that due to the District Development Facility (DDF), the District Assemblies' Common Fund (DACF) and other resources that flow to the Districts, most of the Districts have not put in much effort in their IGF drive. He gave an example of Banjul, Gambia where the city authority raises enough revenue and even transfers some to the central government.

He promised that if he is approved as Minister, he would work with the various MMDAs to intensify the generation of Internally Generated Funds (IGFs).

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Hon. Akwasi Opong-Fosu as Minister for Local Government and Rural Development.

4.2 MRS. NANA OYE LITHUR - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Background

Nana Oye Lithur was born in Accra on 2nd January 1965. She attended the Ridge Church School, Accra from 1971 to 1978 after which she proceeded to the Wesley Girls High School, Cape Coast (1978-1986) where she obtained her General Certificate of Education, Ordinary and Advanced Level Certificates. She was admitted into the University of Ghana, Legon in 1986 where she graduated in 1989 with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Degree.

Nana Lithur was called to the Bar in 1992 after attaining a Barrister at Law Certificate from the Ghana School of Law where she schooled from 1989 to 1992. She holds a Master of Laws (LLM) Degree in Human Rights and Democratization in Africa from the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

She is the Executive Director of Human Rights Advocacy Center, a human rights research and advocacy non-governmental organization she founded in 2008.

Petitions

The Committee received two petitions against her nomination from the Concerned Clergy Association of Ghana and the International Council for Clergy.

Witches Camps

Mrs. Lithur described the phenomenon of *witches' camps* as a cultural problem and regretted that the phenomenon persisted even after the amendment of the Criminal Offences Act, 1960, Act 29 to include the act of forcing people into such camps as an offence.

She stated that the problem would require the sensitization and education of the people who indulge in the practice to change their beliefs and cultural attitudes. She further stated that if she becomes the Minister, she would encourage the reintegration of inmates of the camps into their communities.

The "Kayayei" Phenomenon

The nominee indicated that the issue of head porters or "kayayei" was an economic problem that stems from the uneven distribution of economic opportunities across the country forcing people to migrate from rural areas to urban centers.

She recommended that mechanisms be put in place to continue giving humanitarian aid to the kayayei people in the short term. In the long term however, she suggested that resources and opportunities must be evenly distributed across the country to stem the tide of rural –urban migration.

Politician

Asked if she was a politician, the nominee stated that she was not a card bearing member of any political party. She explained that she accepted the nomination because she shared the President's vision to bring development to the people through the "Better Ghana Agenda as well as the NDC's belief in social inclusiveness and the principle that "people matter, you matter".

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The nominee described Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or "female genital cutting" as a cultural and religious identity problem.

Nana Oye Lithur informed the Committee that even though the Criminal Offences Act was amended in 1994 to criminalize the FGM, the act unfortunately still persists. Quoting some statistics, she said only 2% of people who have undergone the practice "approve" of it.

She indicated that the problem of FGM transcends the ECOWAS sub-region and applauded the efforts of some NGOs in Senegal who have employed the involvement of men in the sensitization and fight against the practice.

Homosexuality

The nominee stated that she does not advocate the promotion of homosexuality in the country. According to her, as a human rights lawyer, she had over the years advocated respect for the rights of every person as guaranteed by the 1992 Constitution irrespective of the person's sexual preference.

She maintained that she will continue to defend the rights of the vulnerable and marginalized in society notwithstanding the person's sexual orientation. She called for a national debate on whether or not the practice of homosexuality should be criminalised.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Mrs. Nana Oye Lithur as Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection.

4.3 PROF. NAANA JANE OPOKU-AGYEMANG - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR EDUCATION

Background

Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang was born on 22nd November, 1951 at Komenda in the Central Region. She attended the Komenda Local Authority School for her basic education and the Wesley Girls High School (1964-1971) for her GCE O' and A' Level Certificates. She obtained a DSEF Certificate from the Universite de Dakar in 1976 and a BA (Hons) in Education from the University of Cape Coast in 1977. She further holds a Master of Arts Degree from the York University, Toronto, Canada (1980) and a PhD from the same University (1986). She has further been honoured with Doctor of Laws (LLD) Degree from the University of the West Indies (2010) and a Doctor of Humane Letters (DLitt) from the Winston Salem State University, North Carolina (2011).

She began her career as a lecturer at the University of Cape Coast in 1986 and rose through the ranks to become the Vice Chancellor of the University in 2008, a position she held until 2012.

She has published extensively on diverse areas including slave trade and the African Diaspora. She is currently the Chairperson of the Board of the Graphic Communications Group Limited and a Member of the Board (as Eminent Person) of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Petition by the Progressive People's Party

The nominee explained that the petition borders on how she would use her office as Minister of Education to ensure the realization of the Free, Compulsory, Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) in Ghana.

She explained that the FCUBE has several components to it and expressed the view that the FCUBE has not been fully realized because of lack of adequate resources. To her, the difficulty has had to do with the "compulsory" and "universal" aspects of the programme since in some areas, schools are just not there. She promised to explore the option of the flexible "education for life" initiative introduced by DANIDA to provide access to education, especially in areas where schools are not available.

Standardisation of Fees

The nominee stated that she would support the standardization of fees at the Senior High School Level "if it will work", but if it would not work, then she would explore other avenues to address the problem of huge disparities in fees paid in different senior high schools. She stated for instance that she does not understand why students should pay money to motivate teachers. She encouraged parents, teachers, communities and other stakeholders to join in the discussion on fees paid at the SHS level. She was "not sure" that Parliament must be called upon to legislate the fees.

Core Mandate of Universities

Prof. Opoku-Agyemang agreed that the University of Cape Coast and indeed other public universities have their original mandates as contained in the Acts that established them. She however explained that the Acts also gave the universities "a leeway" to introduce programmes and courses that respond to emerging national needs. So for example, she said the UCC established the Medical School to help address the national problem of high doctor/patient ratio.

Design of Basic School Structures

The nominee disclosed that she has had some serious reservations about the classroom structures of most government schools, saying the walls are often not high enough, roofs do not make for proper lighting and ventilation etc. She

expressed the need to hold discussions with architects to ensure that school structures that are built are appropriate for academic work and also strong enough to withstand the forces of the weather.

Technical and Vocational Education

The former Vice Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast proposed that ways must be found to make Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) more attractive to students "at the first instance". She was hopeful that she would have one deputy minister who would solely focus on technical and vocational education. She commended the polytechnics for providing good avenues for TVET students to continue their education at the tertiary level and singled out the introduction of the Bachelor of Technology programmes as one useful step in that direction.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang as Minister for Education.

4.4 DR. JOE OTENG-ADJEI - MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Background

Dr Oteng-Adjei was born on 3rd May, 1958. He attended the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (1977 to 1981) where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. From 1984 to 1987, He proceeded to the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada where he was awarded an MSC in Power System Reliability. He later pursued and attained a PhD in Power System Reliability and Economics from the same University from 1987 to 1990. Dr. Oteng-Adjei obtained a Masters in Business Administration from Cranfield University, Bedford, England in 1999.

Dr. Oteng-Adjei started work as a teaching Assistant and later Assistant Lecturer at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology from 1981 to 1984.

After his PHD studies, he worked as a planning engineer for Acres International Limited, Niagara falls, Canada from 1990 to 1991. From 1992 to 2000, he served as the Director of Power at the Ministry of Energy. He then served as a technical advisor at the Energy Commission until June 2002.

In July 2002, Dr. Oteng Adjei returned to the academic field as a senior lecturer, director (graduate Studies) and Coordinator for Executive Masters Program at Greenhill Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA). In October, 2006, he became the Academic Registrar of GIMPA until February, 2009.

Dr. Oteng-Adjei has rendered a number of consultancy and teaching services over the years. He has sixteen publications to his credit and supervised a number of thesis and long essays at post graduate and undergraduate levels respectively. Dr. Oteng –Adjei was the Minister for Energy from 2009 to 2012.

The nominee has served on a number of boards including the Chairman for the Committee of Ministers of the West African Gas Pipeline and a member of the Economic Management Team of the President (2009 to 2012).

Power Outages

To a question as to why the Ministry of Energy was unable to state when the load shedding exercise would end, the nominee informed the Committee that the Ministry is managing assets which are over forty years old and are linked together.

He stated that the Ministry would not give false information. He explained that due to the obsolete nature of the equipment, by the time the engineers finish fixing a broken down unit, another one would be off. This throws off all the earlier predictions.

He informed the Committee that currently the Ministry had engaged the services of communications experts who understand engineering issues to be in charge of all public relations issues.

Science Consciousness

To a question as to how he would promote science consciousness in the country, the nominee stated that the Ministry would liaise with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders to promote the study of science at all levels of education.

He said as a minister, he would work with CSIR and other stakeholders to market science. He said there is the need to put joy in the sector so that students who choose to study science would be encouraged and motivated to go into it. He said given the pressure on the government purse, the Ministry would also attract and encourage the private sector to partner it in its efforts to achieve the President's vision.

He informed the Committee that as a policy, the country is moving away from theoretical science to applied science where the country's needs would be addressed. He also indicated that the country should adopt innovation driven approach where the key success factors are technology, market and capital risk. This is the only way that science would be beneficial as it would lead to an expanded economy and create more job avenues.

He said the Ministry would to continue to work with stakeholders to create technology parks, offer scholarship schemes and provide the basic infrastructure like computers.

Environmental Pollution

To a question as to how environmental pollution in the country would be handled, the nominee informed the Committee that it is his view that the 1992 Constitution places the responsibility on the citizenry.

He indicated that the Ministry would create an inspectorate Unit to monitor the pollution and suggested that there was the need to create a specialized court to try environmental issues.

Nominee's View on Climate Change

On what his views were on the debate on Climate Change, the nominee said that he would work with scientists in the country to come up with solutions such as exploring technologies to nourish the soil, better plant species, among others.

He indicated that unlike other Ministries, the Ministry of Environment depends on other MDAs to operationalise aspects of its policies and he would therefore liaise with these ministries to enforce the enabling laws on pollution.

Genetically Modified Foods

In response to a question as to whether Ghana is ready for genetically modified foods, the nominee informed the Committee that he has been advised by CSIR that the country is ready to go into the production of genetically modified foods because the Institute has the technology of producing genetically modified seedlings.

Plastic Waste

On the issue of plastic waste, the nominee promised he would review work done on the subject and to consider alternative ways by which the product can be modified to ensure that it is environmentally friendly.

EPA under the Ministry of Local Government

The nominee disagreed to a suggestion that EPA should be placed under the Ministry responsible for Local Government as the District Assemblies are responsible for sanitation. He explained that even though EPA is responsible for environmental protection of the country, entities under the Ministry of Environment are regulatory.

He said putting EPA under the Ministry responsible for Local Government would be undermining the regulatory aspect of EPA.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Dr. Joe Oteng-Adjei as Minister for environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.

4.5 DR. EDWARD OMANE BOAMAH – MINISTER-DESIGNATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Background

Dr. Edward Omane Boamah was born on 26th December, 1975 at Nkawkaw in the Eastern Region. He attended Pope John Secondary School and Junior Seminary from 1989 to 1996 where he obtained his Ordinary and Advanced Level certificates. He later attended the University of Ghana Medical School from 1998 to 2002 where he was awarded a BSc in Medical Sciences. He furthered his education in the same University from November 2002 to March 2006 where he obtained his MBChB, Bachelor of Medicine, and Bachelor of Surgery.

Dr. Omani Boamah started work as an intern at the 37 Military Hospital, Accra from 2006 to 2008. Between April 2009 and February, 2012, Dr. Boamah was appointed Deputy Minister for Environment, Science and Technology. From March 2012 to January 2013, Dr. Boamah was appointed Deputy Minister for Youth and Sports.

Hon Boamah has attended a number conferences including the Conference on the Swine Flu Global Pandemic in Washington, USA (August, 2009) and Unite for Sight Annual Health Conference at Yale University, USA (April 2008)

The nominee has held several positions including President of the National Union of Ghana Students (2002-2003), Spokesperson for Junior Doctors Association (2006-2007) and Deputy Campaign Coordinator for the NDC (2012).

"Tussle" between National Communications Authority and National Media Commission

Responding to disagreement between the NCA and the NMC on the issue of who should allocate frequency, the nominee proposed collaboration between the two bodies in the discharge of this mandate as a better option

He explained that currently it is the NCA that has the technical capacity to manage the administration of the allocation of frequencies.

He informed the Committee that for the past two years, there is a departure by the two bodies from a tussle to more of collaboration.

He assured the Committee that as a Minister, he will engage the two institutions to iron out any differences that may exist.

Quality of Service of Mobile Phone Operators

In an answer to the quality of service provided by the mobile phone operators, the nominee stated that there is a direct relationship between the siting of masts and quality of service and stated that the overriding consideration in this regard is profitability.

He commended government for undertaking a number of social interventions to ensure that cell sites are set up in these areas under the GIFEC. Under the program, Government would bear the initial cost of mounting the masts so that the operators can use it to provide services to the communities within the cell.

He also informed the Committee that Government has introduced mobile number portability to enable users easily switch to different mobile operator whilst using the same number. When it was introduced in 2009, it took seven hours to port from one network to another. Currently it takes about seven minutes to port to another network. He therefore encouraged users to switch to networks offering better services than the network that they are using.

He also informed the Committee of the domestic roaming service which new development worked like the international roaming service, thus enabling one to switch automatically from a poor service provider to another network provider with good signal at a specific location. This service would be made available across the nation when completed.

On network providers rendering poor services for which the NCA continues to sanction by way of imposition of fines, he called for the need to assess the effectiveness of such sanctions and the way forward.

Frequency Violations

In response to a question on how to keep companies operate within the bands of allocated frequencies, the nominee advocated caution in restricting such radio stations in order to avoid any accusation of stifling freedom of the media. He said the use of affiliate stations was a better way of handling the matter except that such affiliations may crowd-out local stations.

He said, if approved, he would work with the National Media Commission and other stakeholders to address the issue.

Funding for Ghana Meteorological Services (GMS)

The nominee acknowledged the contributions of GMS to the agricultural sector and aviation industry even though the services rendered do not attract any fee.

The nominee, having regards to the developments in the country particularly the aviation industry, stressed the need for the Service to procure equipment such as radars for the Tamale, Takoradi and Kumasi airports which he however observed were very expensive.

The nominee opined that the financing gap requires a collaborative effort on the part of the Ministries of Finance, Transport and Communications. In addition to that, the passage of appropriate legislation to possibly levy a charge on the prime commercial users of the GMS services would greatly help.

He said if approved he would work to address this problem and help the GMS to get what is due them.

Banning of Analogue Television Sets

The nominee agreed to the imposition of a ban on the importation of analog television sets into the country.

He explained that the country is currently moving towards the use of digital signals by June 7th 2015. He said because of this, most analog television sets would not have lived their time by that date if purchased today.

Owners of such television sets would therefore need to purchase a convertor in order to access the digital signals. This, he said is not a pro-poor policy.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the House approves *by consensus* the nomination of Dr. Edward Omane Boamah as Minister for Communications.

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 in respect of the nomination of:

- 1. Hon. Akwasi Oppong-Fosu - Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development**
- 2. Mrs. Nana Oye Lithur - Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection**
- 3. Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang - Ministry of Education**
- 4. Dr. Joe Oteng-Adjei - Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation**
- 5. Dr. Edward Omane Boamah – Ministry of Communications**

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.


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


**ALHAJI IBRAHIM GOMBILLA
DEPUTY CLERK TO PARLIAMENT**

31ST JANUARY, 2013